

express

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Weekend



President Bush's plan for Iraq is expected soon.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Write Now:

Hilary Swank stars in the feel-good flick 'Freedom Writers.' Plus, 'Miss Potter' and 'Elvis.'

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Weather >> Fog and Rain



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'FACTORY' FLAIR

Edie Sedgwick's iconic '60s style returns >> Weekend Styles



MRS. SPEAKER: Surrounded by her grandchildren and the children of other members of Congress, Nancy Pelosi is sworn in as speaker of the House on Thursday. ♦ **Pelosi's journey:** 'Kitchen to Congress' | Page 3

THREATS | You'll All Live a Millisecond Less! An Innisfail, Australia, man was arrested after threatening bank staffers Wednesday with asbestos, the Australian Associated Press reported. The man went in the bank wearing a respiratory mask



and carrying the asbestos and a bottle of water. He shouted at the staff — demanding money for an insurance claim — and then splashed the water on the ceiling and shattered the asbestos on the floor. (EXPRESS) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2



A Historic New Role For Pelosi

First female House speaker, Dems set ambitious agenda

WASHINGTON | In a day of ceremony and historic change, Rep. Nancy Pelosi became the first female leader of the U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday as Democrats eagerly took control of Congress for the final two years of President Bush's term.

"The Democrats are back," Pelosi rejoiced, and she immediately set the rank-and-file to work passing tougher ethics rules.

By custom, lawmakers brought their children to opening ceremonies in the House, and Pelosi swept into the chamber accompanied by her grandchildren. As is also customary, the opening moments of the 110th Congress produced pledges of bipartisanship.

Yet Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid signaled a new political order when they swiftly challenged Bush over the war in Iraq. "No issue in our country is more important than finding an end to this intractable war," said Reid.

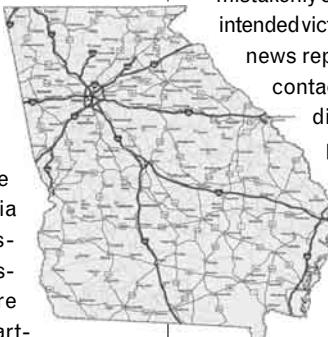
While Thursday was set aside for ceremony in the Senate, the House got right to work on the agenda Democrats campaigned on last fall. Despite Republican protests, Democrats said they had the votes to assure passage of rules changes designed to end what they call a "culture of corruption." DAVID ESPO (AP)

eyeOpeners

PODUNK

Road Maps Only Have Places Worth Visiting

Po Biddy Crossroads will be back on the map. So will Hopeulikit and Doctortown and hundreds of others that were erased. From Abbotsford to Zetella, the 488 communities wiped from 2007's version of the Georgia state highway map will be restored, the Georgia Department of Transportation said Wednesday. The towns were erased after the department decided it wanted a clearer, more legible version of the map to hand out for free at visitor's centers and tourism hotspots. But small-town officials were infuriated, and said it was an insult to rural residents. (AP)



MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Um, We're Supposed To Kidnap a Person

A North Hollywood, Calif., woman was kidnapped, bound and abandoned in her car Tuesday—after her abductors mistakenly chose her instead of the intended victim, her roommate, CBS news reported. The roommate contacted the police after he discovered the kidnapping; he told officials he believed he was the one meant to be taken. The woman didn't know the kidnappers, who, police said, a third party ordered to commit the act. "She was completely innocent," officer Alan Hamilton said. As for how the mistake was made, he said the suspects "aren't the sharpest tools in the shed." (EXPRESS)



JEAN FARLEY/AP

GENETIC MISTAKES

Half-Calf

Dairy farms usually don't make for a good tourist attraction. But the crowds are flocking to Kirk Heldreth's farm in Rural Retreat, Va., to see this calf, which at one time was meant to be twins. The calf, which was born Dec. 27, has two faces, breathes out of two noses and has two tongues, which move independently, said Heldreth. There appears to be a single socket containing two eyes where the heads split. (EXPRESS)



SPEEDING

750 MPH Would've Gotten Him 4 Points

A Newport, Wales, cab driver received a \$116 fine and three points on his driving record after being accused by police of speeding at 420 mph, the Sun reported. Tom Matthews said he was caught by a camera that recorded his speed at 420 mph in a 30 mph zone. "I drive an old Cavalier—not a jumbo jet. According to this, I've broken the land speed record," he said. "There has been a printing error. If they insist I was going that fast, I should be a Grand Prix driver." (EXPRESS)

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The number of executions carried out in 2006, the lowest level since capital punishment was reinstated 30 years ago, reflecting what some experts say is a growing fear that the criminal justice system will make a tragic and irreversible mistake.

Nation

In Brief



A National Guard helicopter unit lowers a bale of hay for cattle trapped by snow.

LAMAR, COLO.

National Guard Planes Drop Hay for Snowbound Cattle

National Guard troops prepared helicopters to resume an emergency hay-lift Thursday, racing to provide hay and drinking water to thousands of cattle left stranded by blizzards in the U.S. Midwest. Colorado officials estimated 30,000 head of cattle were at risk, but there was no estimate of deaths. The back-to-back blizzards covered fences dividing pastures, scattering the animals. (AP)

SPOKANE, WASH.

Diocese to Pay \$48M in Priest Sex Abuse Cases

The Spokane Catholic Diocese has agreed to pay at least \$48 million to people molested by priests as a part of a deal to emerge from bankruptcy, a federal mediator announced Thursday. The settlement would be financed by \$20 million from six insurance carriers; another \$18 million from the sale of the bishop's office building; and other assets and contributions from Catholic entities. (AP)

New Speaker Pelosi Takes the Gavel

First woman elected House speaker, Pelosi basks in historic day

WASHINGTON | Surrounded by kids as well as cheering lawmakers, Nancy Pelosi marveled aloud at her long journey "from the kitchen to the Congress."

Six times a grandmother, now second in line to the presidency, Pelosi said her ascension to become the first female House speaker in history was the culmination of 200 years of struggle for women as well as a personal victory.

It was her coming-out to the nation, and Pelosi, 66, sought to introduce herself not only as the San Francisco liberal decried by Republicans, but as Nancy D'Alesandro Pelosi, Italian-American Catholic, mother of five and native of gritty Baltimore, where her father was mayor.



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi takes the speaker's gavel from House Minority Leader John Boehner after being elected as the first woman in the role on Thursday.

She arrived on the House floor Thursday with all six grandchildren in tow, including baby Paul Michael Vos, born to her daughter Alexandra in early November.

"I was raised in a large family that was devoutly Catholic, deeply patriotic, proud of our Italian-American heritage, and staunchly Democratic," Pelosi said. "My par-

Pelosi the Politician

For Pelosi, it was not just the culmination of a long climb by women through Congress, but a triumph for a politician who plotted her party's return to power. | Today, A Section

IN The Washington Post

ents taught us that public service was a noble calling."

After her election by a vote of 233-202, cheers erupted in the chamber as House Republican leader John Boehner handed her the speaker's gavel. Pelosi always has said she wants to be judged by her abilities, not her gender, but she happily acknowledged the importance of her achievement.

"For our daughters and granddaughters, today we have broken the marble ceiling," Pelosi said. "For our daughters and our granddaughters now, the sky is the limit."

ERICA WERNER (AP)

Nuclear Chief Dismissed for Lapses

WASHINGTON | Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman on Thursday dismissed the chief of the country's nuclear weapons program because of security breakdowns at the Los Alamos, N.M., laboratory and other facilities.

Linton Brooks said he would leave in two weeks to three weeks as head of the National Nuclear Security Administration, a post he held since May 2003.

Bodman said the nuclear agency under Brooks, a former ambassador and arms control negotiator, had not adequately fixed security problems.

Brooks told agency workers in a statement, "This is not a decision that I would have preferred ... [but] I accept the decision and you need to do likewise."

He characterized the demand for his resignation as "based on

the principle of accountability that should govern all public service."

Brooks was reprimanded in June for failing to report to Bodman a security breach of computers at an agency facility in Albuquerque, N.M., that resulted in the theft of files containing Social Security numbers and other personal data for 1,500 workers.

The theft did not become generally known, nor was Bodman made aware of it, for eight months.

H. JOSEPH HEBERT (AP)

HEARSAY | LONG ROAD

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Nation



TAXICAB CONTENTION: Some Muslim cab drivers are refusing service to a growing number of passengers with alcohol or dogs, and officials at Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport are trying to fight it. Each month, about 100 people are denied cab service at the airport, and refusals for religious reasons have grown in recent months.

Bush Mulling Troop Increase in Iraq

President, Iraqi prime minister discuss video of Saddam execution

WASHINGTON | As President Bush considered more U.S. troops for Iraq, the White House said Thursday that Bush and Iraq's prime minister had agreed on the need for enough military might to calm violence-wracked Baghdad.

Bush and Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki spoke on a secure video hookup for nearly two hours — a sign the president was close to announcing his new strategy for Iraq. The White House said it could be their last conversation before Bush details his decisions in a major speech.

Bush also told al-Maliki that "it was the right thing to do" to investigate the taking of cell phone video of Saddam Hussein at his hanging, White House press secretary Tony



Lt. Col. Steve White talks to military personnel and their family members in Tucson, Ariz., prior to their deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan on Wednesday.

Snow said.

The unauthorized video showed the deposed president being taunted on the gallows followed by images of his dangling body. The unruly spectacle has infuriated many of

Saddam's fellow Sunni Arabs and caused international consternation.

The White House, however, not only has refused to join the criticism of how the execution was carried

out but also has sought to minimize the fallout.

Snow, recounting what Bush told al-Maliki about the probe, said Bush "simply said that it was the right thing to do, that there were concerns in this country and around the world about it and that he thought the prime minister was doing the right thing by taking a look at it."

Bush has chosen not to view the video. Snow said al-Maliki told Bush that Iraqi leaders were "pained at the filming." The spokesman also stressed that the two leaders talked about Saddam as "a tyrant who killed hundreds of thousands" and the expectations that there would be some violence after his death.

The president and prime minister spoke by secure video conference, with the second half of the conversation involving only the two leaders and their translators, Snow said. JENNIFER LOVEN (AP)

White House Legal Adviser Miers Resigns

WASHINGTON | Harriet Miers, President Bush's failed Supreme Court nominee and longtime adviser, on Thursday submitted her resignation as White House counsel.

White House press secretary Tony Snow said the president reluctantly accepted her resignation, which takes effect Jan. 31. He said a search for a successor is under way.

Bush nominated Miers in October 2005 to replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, but she dropped out under fire from conservatives who questioned her qualifications and would not support her.

When asked why Miers was leaving, Snow said: "Basically, she has been here six years." (AP)



Miers

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Nation

Retired Admiral to Get Top Spy Nod

Veteran intelligence expert likely to replace Negroponte as NID

WASHINGTON | Retired Vice Adm. Mike McConnell, a veteran of more than 25 years in the intelligence field, will be named by President Bush to succeed John Negroponte as national intelligence director, a senior administration official said Thursday.

Negroponte will move to the State Department to become the No. 2 to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

The nominations of McConnell and Negroponte are expected to be announced by Bush on Friday.

The administration sought to dispel any suggestion that Negroponte's shift was a demotion. Bush personally reached out to Negroponte, an experienced diplomat, to take over the long-vacant job as deputy secretary of state, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because Bush has not announced the nomination.

Bush also talked personally with McConnell about taking the job as director of national intelligence, overseeing all 16 U.S. spy agencies.

Under Donald Rumsfeld's reign at the Defense Department, there

were rivalries and friction between the Pentagon and the intelligence community. Robert Gates, who took over last month as secretary of defense, supports McConnell's nomination to the top intelligence post, the official said.

The personnel shifts in the intelligence community come as Bush is planning to announce changes in strategy for the war in Iraq. That speech — once expected before Christmas — now is not likely before the middle of next week, at the earliest.

Negroponte, who took over in April 2005 as the nation's first intelligence chief, has held a series of tough posts in the Bush administration and has been at the center of the Iraq debate since before the U.S.-led invasion in March 2003. He served as U.S. ambassador to the U.N. from 2001 to 2004 and ambassador to Baghdad until March 2005 before becoming intelligence chief.

Negroponte's transition to the State Department must be confirmed by the Senate, as would McConnell's nomination. Both changes will create new openings for the Democrats to debate the administration's intelligence and foreign policy direction.

KATHERINE SHRADER (AP)

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NEW YORK | MAN HAILED FOR SUBWAY RESCUE



HONORED: Mayor Michael Bloomberg, far right, escorts Wesley Autrey and his daughter in New York City on Thursday. Autrey was awarded the Bronze Star for saving the life of a stranger who fell between subway tracks.

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World



CLOSE YOUR EYES: A Brazilian judge has ordered YouTube to find a way to stop Brazilians from viewing steamy footage of supermodel Daniela Cicarelli and her boyfriend on the highly trafficked video-sharing site, court officials said Thursday.

Scientists Fear Earth's Hottest Year

El Nino could have devastating effects throughout the world

LONDON | Deepening drought in Australia. Stronger typhoons in Asia. Floods in Latin America.

British climate scientists predict that a resurgent El Nino climate trend combined with higher levels of greenhouse gases could touch off a fresh round of ecological disasters — and make 2007 the world's hottest year on record.

"Even a moderate [El Nino] warming event is enough to push the global temperatures over the top," said Phil Jones, director of the Climatic Research unit at the University of East Anglia.

The warmest year on record is 1998, when the average global temperature was 1.2 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the long-term average of 57 degrees. Though such a change appears small, incremental differences can, for example, add to the ferocity of storms by evaporating more steam off the ocean.

There is a 60 percent chance that the average global temperature for 2007 will match or break the record, Britain's Meteorological Office said Thursday. The consequences could be felt worldwide.

El Nino, which is now under way in the Pacific Ocean and is expected to last until May, occurs irregularly. But when it does, winters in Southeast Asia tend to become milder, summers in Australia get drier, and Pacific storms can be more intense. The U.N.'s Food Aid Organization has warned that rising temperatures

could wreak agricultural havoc.

In Australia, which is struggling through its worst drought on record, the impact on farmers could be devastating. The country has already registered its smallest wheat harvest in a decade and severe water restrictions have put thousands of farmers at risk of bankruptcy.

In other cases, El Nino's effects are more ambiguous. Rains linked to the phenomenon led to bumper crops in Argentina in 1998, but floods elsewhere in Latin America devastated subsistence farmers. (AP)

Clash for Control of Mogadishu

Aided by Ethiopians, Somalia's troops battle 600 militants

MOGADISHU, SOMALIA | Somali government troops backed by Ethiopian soldiers battled about 600 Islamic militiamen Thursday on the southern tip of this Horn of Africa nation, and U.S. Navy forces prevented the militants from fleeing by sea, authorities said.

A U.S. diplomat said she hoped peacekeepers from the region could be in place by month's end in Somalia, where the Council of Islamic Courts militias were driven from the capital of Mogadishu and much of the south last week. But peacekeepers could face bloody reprisals from the militias, who want to rule by the Quran and have vowed to launch an Iraqi-style guerrilla war.

Somalia hasn't had an effective central government in 15 years, and Mogadishu resident Musse Ali said foreigners will also have to protect themselves from warlords and freelance militiamen.

"The peacekeepers will be targets for terrorists," said Ali, 41. "They will have to face them."

Somalia's interior minister said thousands of Islamic fighters were still hiding in the capital. (AP)



DEADLY SCENE: Palestinians carry a wounded man for treatment after he was injured during an Israeli army operation in the West Bank city of Ramallah on Thursday. Four civilians were killed in the attack, which Israeli Prime Minister Olmert apologized for.

4 Palestinians Killed in Israeli Raid

Tensions rise in Gaza after first attack of its kind since peace accord

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK | Israeli undercover troops burst into a West Bank vegetable market Thursday, seizing four fugitives and exchanging heavy fire with Palestinians in the first major raid since the Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to try to ease tensions.

Four Palestinians, all civilians,

were killed and 20 wounded in the fighting in Ramallah.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said in a harshly worded statement that Israel's peace promises rang hollow in light of the raid and demanded \$5 million in compensation for the damage to shops and cars in Ramallah.

In Gaza, six Palestinians, including a senior security officer, were killed and more than a dozen wounded in fighting between gunmen loyal to Hamas

and those allied with Abbas' Fatah movement.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, who met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak just after the Ramallah raid, apologized for any civilian casualties, but said the operation was intended to protect Israel from terrorist attacks.

"Things developed in a way that could not have been predicted in advance. If innocent people were hurt, this was not our intention," he said. KARIN LAUB (AP)

In Brief



Israeli PM Ehud Olmert (L) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

SHARM EL-SHEIK, EGYPT

Egyptian Leader Urges Israel to Pursue Peace Talks

A summit between the leaders of Israel and Egypt on Thursday fell short of its goal of igniting a new round of Mideast peace efforts, highlighting the significant disagreements between Israel and its Arab neighbors. Speaking at a news conference after the meeting, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak pushed Israel to hold talks with Syria and pursue peace with the Palestinians, despite the rise of the Islamic militant group Hamas. (AP)

MADRID, SPAIN

Large Explosive Found in Basque Area After Bombing

Police found a large explosive in the Basque region Thursday, five days after a car bombing in Madrid that was blamed on the separatist group ETA shattered a nine-month ceasefire. The discovery came Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero visited the wreckage of the Saturday's car bombing and vowed Spain would not be intimidated. The blast at the parking lot of Madrid's international airport killed one man, left another missing and feared dead and wounded at least 26 people. (AP)

SUVA, FIJI

Coup Leader Sworn in as Interim Prime Minister

Fiji's military chief Commodore Frank Bainimarama was sworn in Friday as the South Pacific nation's interim prime minister, exactly one month after seizing control of the nation in an armed coup that dissolved Parliament and banished the elected leader to an outlying island. (AP)

Local

JIM'S IN: Jim Webb was sworn in by Vice President Dick Cheney as Virginia's new junior senator Thursday in a Capitol Hill ceremony in Washington. Webb was accompanied by former Va. Sen. Charles Robb and senior Va. Sen. John Warner.



Cardin's Agenda in Line With Dems'

New U.S. senator from Md. is sworn in and introduces his first bill

WASHINGTON | Democrat Benjamin Cardin was sworn in Thursday as Maryland's new U.S. senator, calling his move across Capitol Hill after 20 years in the House of Representatives "the end of one journey and the beginning of the next."

Cardin laid out a broad agenda to a crowded room of supporters in the Dirksen Senate Office Building before he headed to the Senate chamber to take the oath of office from Vice President Dick Cheney.

Many of Cardin's priorities were initiatives Democrats have vowed to pass quickly as they regained control of both the House and Senate for the



Benjamin Cardin, left, and his wife, Myrna Edelman, laugh as he is sworn in as one of Maryland's U.S. senators on Thursday by Vice President Dick Cheney.

first time since 1995, such as raising the minimum wage, instituting ethics reform in Congress and reducing interest rates for student loans.

Cardin called for more public transit, embryonic stem cell research funding and universal health coverage. He said troops should be withdrawn from Iraq, a central theme of his Senate campaign. Cardin promised to press the issue when he takes his seat next week on the Senate Foreign Service Committee. And he introduced his first bill Thursday as a senator: legislation dealing with Medicare.

"You're going to see this Congress get down to work immediately," Cardin said at an early morning briefing for reporters. "That makes me happy." STEPHEN MANNING (AP)

Police Kill Man After a Car Chase

BLADENSBURG, MD. | Police shot and killed a man who was allegedly driving a vehicle with stolen tags following a brief chase Wednesday.

Officers saw the vehicle in a shopping center parking lot in Riverdale. When they approached the vehicle, the man tried to drive away and nearly hit one of the officers, said Cpl. Diane Richardson, a

police spokeswoman.

Police chased the vehicle onto the Baltimore-Washington Parkway at Route 450, where the driver lost control of the vehicle, then rammed it into police cars. (AP)

BOOK **Lethal ride:** A passenger, who the victim's family said asked for a ride, was also shot by police. **Today's Post, Man**

Bill for Schools Takeover Unveiled

WASHINGTON | D.C. Mayor Adrian Fenty unveiled a bill Thursday to put him in charge of reforming the city's struggling public schools.

He said the plan is needed to reverse "decades of failure."

The mayor's proposal includes stripping the elected school board of its budgeting authority and appointing a cabinet-level schools chancellor to operate the 58,000-student system.

The legislation also calls for an ombudsman, who would receive feedback from parents, and a facilities manager to oversee a schools modernization program.

D.C. Council Chairman Vincent Gray said he will move quickly to introduce the bill and hold public



Adrian Fenty speaks Thursday after announcing his schools takeover plan.

hearings. Several council members have said they plan to move the legislation forward quickly. (AP)

BOOK **Buck stops here:** Fenty says he'll place his political future as mayor on school success. **Today's Post, Metro**

Immigration Training for Area Police

Would let Herndon officers initiate the deportation process

HERNDON, VA. | The city has been accepted into a federal program that trains police officers to enforce U.S. immigration laws, allowing them to initiate deportation proceedings.

The Herndon Town Council was notified this week after voting in September to send an application to the Department of Homeland Security. The council will vote on an agreement authorizing police to participate after holding a public hearing in the coming weeks, town spokeswoman Anne Curtis said.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offers a five-week course to police officers that targets individuals who pose a threat to national security and public safety. Officers who pass are typically authorized to question or detain people they believe to be in the country illegally. They also can work on federal immigration cases.

Herndon has the highest proportion of foreign-born residents of any locality in the area, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. (AP)



BY THE NUMBERS: About 250 members of the University of Maryland marching band are heading to New Orleans to help build homes for musicians who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. (AP)

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The Lotteries

Thursday, January 4

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	3-6-7 (White)
Evening Lucky Numbers (Wed.)	8-1-0 (White)
Mid-day DC 4	5-5-7-2
Evening DC 4 (Wed.)	2-0-2-2
Rolling Cash Five (Wed.)	1-2-4-6-10
Daily 6 (Wed.)	2-15-16-19-30-36 (12)

Hot Lotto (Wed.) **17-31-32-33 35 (10)**

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	6-6-6
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	9-2-1
Mid-day Pick 4	1-9-0-8
Evening Pick 4 (Wed.)	5-4-8-4
Match 5 (Wed.)	17-18-19-36-38 (23)
Multi-Match (Wed.)	2-26-30-32-35-38

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3	0-2-2
Evening Pick 3 (Wed.)	9-3-2

Mid-day Pick 4 **7-7-7-9**

Evening Pick 4 (Wed.) **8-0-1-0**

Mid-day Cash 5 **5-6-8-17-28**

Evening Cash 5 (Wed.) **8-22-30-31-33**

Win For Life (Wed.) **8-21-24-30-35-38 (1)**

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Powerball (Wed.)	10-12-24-35-55 (31)
Power Play	x3

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.



R U SERIOUS? Cingular Wireless is raising the text messaging rate for customers without a monthly texting plan to 15 cents per message sent or received, an increase of 5 cents. The increase comes two months after an identical move by Sprint Nextel Corp.

Money

Stores Feel Cold Shoulder

Retailers report slow December sales, worry trend will continue

NEW YORK | December's lackluster retail sales left the nation's merchants wondering Thursday about their chances for a turnaround in 2007 — even as several big merchants were scaling back their fourth-quarter earnings expectations.

As retailers reported their sales for the month and the entire holiday season, many blamed their disappointing showings on mild weather that depressed sales of winter wear like heavy coats, and on consumers who waited until just before Christmas to do their shopping. But it was clear that shoppers, worried about the housing market and energy prices, were waiting to get the lowest possible prices — a cautious stance that's expected to continue this year.



Wal-Mart's sales increased in December, but didn't offset an ugly November.

December's disappointments crossed all retail categories, from Limited Brands Inc. to jewelry chain Zales Corp. and could be a harbinger to weak profit reports when retailers release their fourth-quarter results next month. A number of retailers including Zale, BJ's Wholesale Club Inc., Gap Inc. and AnnTaylor Stores

Corp. cut their profit outlooks Thursday because they were forced to slash prices to lure shoppers.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. posted better-than-expected results for December following a dismal November, but the discounter's overall holiday season was still its worst ever, analysts said. ANNE D'INNOCENZIO (AP)

With Warm Weather, Oil Prices Drop

NEW YORK | Oil prices shed more than \$2 Thursday to settle at their lowest level since June 2005, after the U.S. government reported higher-than-expected inventories of gasoline, heating oil and diesel fuel amid

warm winter temperatures.

An unseasonably mild winter in the Northeast and Midwest has led to a buildup in inventories and, as a result, weaker prices.

"There is no winter at all, thus we

have a lot of supplies with no home, and prices have nothing to do but fall," said James Cordier, president of Liberty Trading Group in Tampa, Fla.

Light, sweet crude for February dropped \$2.73, or 4.7 percent, to settle at \$55.59 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
NY&Co	15.22	+2.07	+15.7
Systemax	19.76	+1.66	+9.2
NtwkEq	6.23	+.44	+7.6
Aeropsfl	34.21	+2.21	+6.9
Hitachi	66.11	+3.95	+6.4

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ConstellIB	25.49	-3.65	-12.5
ConstellaIA	25.15	-3.25	-11.4
TmpRusEE	80.81	-7.74	-8.7
Nwrlreland	32.70	-2.85	-8.0
Limited	27.35	-2.23	-7.5

Rates

	Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)		
	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK	
Prime Rate	8.25	8.25	British Pound
Fed Funds close	5.25	5.25	Canadian Dollar
3-month disc	4.91	4.88	European Euro
2-year	4.70	4.80	Japanese Yen
10-year	4.61	4.69	Mexican Peso
30-year	4.71	4.81	Taiwanese Dollar

NASDAQ Stock Market

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Voxware n	5.25	+2.02	+62.5
Micrvisn	3.74	+.67	+21.8
WitnSys	20.75	+3.24	+18.5
StemCells	3.11	+.45	+16.9
Iomain n	4.62	-.23	-4.7

Losers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
Firmdia rsh	2.05	-.70	-25.5
DayStar	2.63	-.57	-17.8
HotTopic	11.23	-2.31	-17.1
SigmaTel	3.87	-.63	-14.0
WrllssFac	2.47	-.38	-13.3

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5143	.5127	.5688
Canadian Dollar	1.1775	1.1720	1.1474
European Euro	.7641	.7596	.8249
Japanese Yen	119.08	119.35	115.95
Mexican Peso	10.8903	10.8336	10.5580
Taiwanese Dollar	32.59	32.45	32.33

FTC Fines Companies For Diet Pill Promises

Government seeks \$25M in penalties for false advertising claims

WASHINGTON | Now that you've indulged in all those holiday goodies and made that New Year's resolution to shed some pounds, the government says don't count on a diet pill to help.

The Federal Trade Commission said Thursday it was fining the marketers of four weight-loss drugs a collective \$25 million for false advertising claims. Despite that, the pills — Xenadrine EFX, CoriSlim, One-A-Day WeightSmart and TrimSpa — will remain on store shelves.

"It is resolution time again, isn't

it?" said FTC Chairman Deborah Platt Majoras. "We're implementing our resolution to fight back against companies that use deceptive advertising claims."

Some of the products marketed their claims through infomercials or celebrity endorsements. Anna Nicole Smith, for example, has endorsed TrimSpa.

"Testimonials from individuals are not a substitute for science," Majoras said. "And that's what Americans need to understand."

The FTC investigated a variety of claims, including rapid weight loss and reduction in the risk of osteoporosis, Alzheimer's disease and even cancer, Majoras noted.

DONNA DE LA CRUZ (AP)

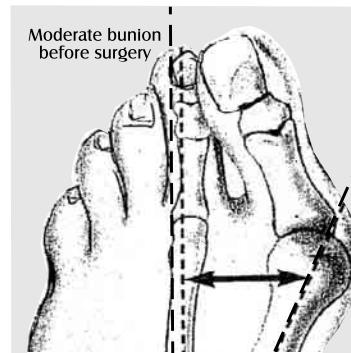


BY THE NUMBERS: The U.S. service sector expanded at a slower rate in December than in the previous month, a trade group said Thursday, signaling the cooling of a critical component of overall economic growth. The Institute for Supply Management said its index of business activity in the service sector was 57.1 in December versus 58.9 in November. (AP)

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AS YOU LIKE IT: Over the years, D.C. has seen some classic Shakespeare, including "Othello" (left) and "Hamlet" (right). There will be six months of the Bard's work in D.C. this year.



ALSO THIS SUNDAY

Readers Rejoice

A new look debuts this week, featuring many new reader-friendly features that all bookworms will be sure to love. | **Book World**

A Winter's Tale?

Are you freaking out about all this warm weather? You're not alone. In fact, there's a whole city full of people where winter went. Joel Achenbach explores the winterless nation's capital. | **Style**



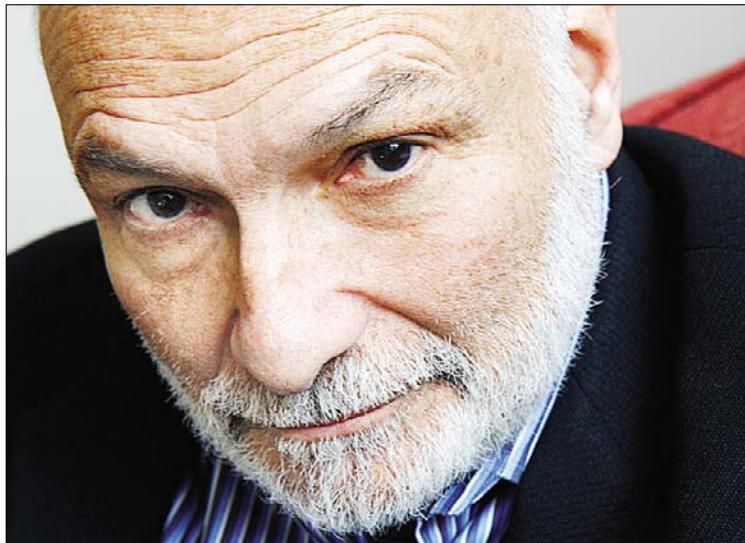
Shakespeare Love-In

D.C. company has a chance to shine with festival for the Bard

The four-decade-long partnership between an Elizabethan genius and an American director reaches for new heights this year with the Shakespeare in Washington Festival, which begins Saturday night at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts with a reading of "Twelfth Night."

As conceived by the Kennedy Center and curated by Michael Kahn, head of Washington's Shakespeare Theatre Company, the six-month-long festival is one of the most lavish explorations this nation has seen of Shakespeare and his impact on the arts. The 60 participating organizations include theater, dance and opera companies, museums, universities and music ensembles.

The event is an extravagant expression of the capital's ongoing absorption in the Bard, as well as a showcase for the unique resources



BILL O'LEARY/TWP

Director Michael Kahn is the face of Shakespeare in the nation's capital. He's hoping to turn his theater into a world-renown company with this year's festival.

the city harbors, such as the Folger Shakespeare Library.

On some level, too, the festival is a reflection of the profound degree to which Kahn and his theater have had an impact on the psyche of the city. One can securely posit that without a classical company of

the Shakespeare's caliber, the town would have neither a claim on — nor the wherewithal for — a celebration of this magnitude.

Edward Gero, a highly regarded actor who lives in D.C. and has worked with Kahn since the director arrived here 20 years ago, says

Kahn's presence affirmed the city's aspirations as a haven for the classics. "He really brought a national spotlight to Washington," Gero says. "The energy and vigor he brought completely transformed the theater."

"I think the final measure of the success is the size of the audience, the depth of support of this work," adds Landon Butler, who chairs the Shakespeare's board of trustees. "We've got a theater of 15,000 subscribers and 60 percent of the tickets sold in advance. It's really pretty extraordinary."

Kahn is not averse to taking credit for the popular evolution. "We began to make Shakespeare more of a box office attraction than it had been in the past," he says. But even if a strong compact has been formed with local audiences, the company has yet to satisfy its larger goal: becoming a classical theater with a profile beyond its region, on the order of the Stratford Festival in Canada or the Royal Shakespeare Company in Great Britain.

Perhaps the cultural moment is

not right for an American troupe to assert primacy in the classics. Still, Kahn is as likely a candidate as one can find to mount a credible campaign. And this momentous year for the company certainly makes it the time to try: A few months after the festival ends, the Shakespeare is scheduled to open a new \$85 million theater in the Harman Center for the Arts, just down the block from the Verizon Center on F Street NW.

For Kahn, the festival seems to have become a more personal kind of mission, an effort to further validate the two decades he's invested in Shakespeare in Washington. In a recent address to his staff, you could sense how much the goals for the festival are entwined with his vision for his theater: "This is not only an effort to celebrate our resident playwright," he explains on this occasion, "it's also a way of creating an awareness outside Washington that this is a cultural capital."

PETER MARKS (THE WASHINGTON POST)

The Great Dane

→ This year's many Hamlets discuss the glories and challenges of playing Shakespeare's most famous character; plus celebrities pick their favorite of the Bard's plays. | **SUNDAY ARTS**

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FOOTBALL

Man Genius? Can Jets coach Eric Mangini get a win when he faces his mentor Bill Belichick in a wild-card showdown? | 14

Sports Weekend

Manning Under Fire

Super Bowl drought plagues Colts QB as he preps for the playoffs

FOOTBALL | Peyton Manning has this routine down.

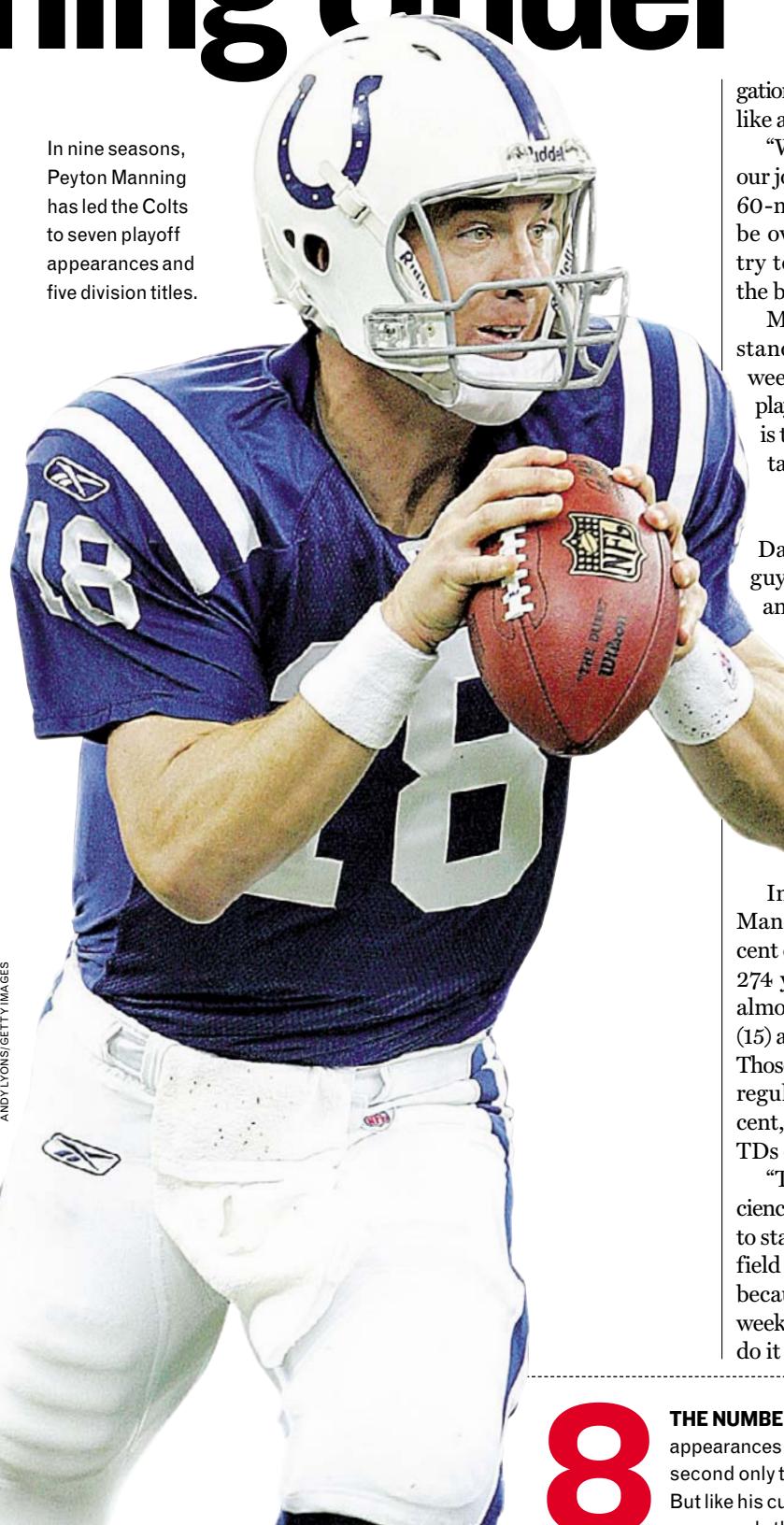
Each January, he's asked about the one missing link to an otherwise full resume — no Super Bowl appearances.

The truth is, the two-time MVP is content letting others write his legacy; he worries more about winning games.

"I'm caught up in the Chiefs right now," he said, glancing down at the podium Tuesday. "We're trying to catch up with the shorter week, you lose a whole study day, and that's what I'm into right now. That and getting a win against the Chiefs."

Manning has achieved virtually

In nine seasons, Peyton Manning has led the Colts to seven playoff appearances and five division titles.



ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

every conceivable goal a nine-year veteran could.

He's won two MVP awards, set the single-season record for touchdown passes, produced the most 4,000-yard seasons of any QB in league history and led his Indianapolis Colts (12-4) to seven playoff appearances and five division titles.

Critics contend those regular-season accomplishments pale in comparison to Manning's playoff problems. He enters Saturday's wild-card game against Kansas City with a 3-6 postseason record, and even if the Colts win, he's likely to get another round of questions about playing outdoors in bad weather next week.

While other players might tire of the constant interro-



ANDY LYONS/GETTY IMAGES

gations, Manning tries to shrug it off like a defensive lineman.

"We talk about just trying to do our jobs," he said. "It's going to be a 60-minute game and there could be overtime, so we've just got to try to score every time we've got the ball."

Manning's teammates understand the scrutiny he faces each week, especially the high-profile playoff games. Win and Manning is the star attraction; lose and he takes the blame.

They don't believe it's right.

"It's totally unfair," tight end Dallas Clark said. "There's 11 guys on the field at any one time and 10 other guys have responsibilities, too. ... It's too bad for him, and I feel bad for a guy who's under that kind of microscope."

Some think Manning plays different in the postseason, yet the numbers tell a different tale.

In nine career playoff games, Manning has completed 60.1 percent of his passes, averaged nearly 274 yards per game and thrown almost twice as many touchdowns (15) as he has interceptions (eight). Those do not deviate much from his regular-season totals of 64.0 percent, 261 yards per game and 275 TDs compared with 139 INTs.

"The word we strive for is efficiency," he said. "It's a real mind-set to stay on the field, move down the field and get in the end zone. Just because you do that for 14, 15 or 16 weeks doesn't mean you're going to do it again." MICHAEL MAROT (AP)

8

THE NUMBER OF consecutive playoff appearances by Colts coach Tony Dungy, second only to Dallas' Tom Landry (nine). But like his current quarterback, Dungy has never made the Super Bowl.

TV Lineup



DIANE BURLESON/AP
Roy Hibbert and the Hoyas open their home schedule on Saturday at home.

→ **STAYING HOME:** The Georgetown Hoyas start their Big East schedule with a game against Notre Dame at Verizon Center on Saturday (noon on MASN), and the Terps women welcome traditional powerhouse Michigan State to College Park on Saturday (2 p.m. on CBS) for a non-conference game.



→ **BIRTHDAY**

BASH: Gilbert Arenas is throwing himself a 25th birthday party on Saturday. But before he gets to

that, the Wizards host the Clippers on Friday (7 p.m. on Comcast) and then immediately afterward, the team travels to Toronto to play the Raptors on Sunday (1 p.m. on Comcast).

→ **TWO WILD AND CRAZY DAYS:** Wild-card weekend features two doubleheaders. On Saturday, the Colts' porous run defense tries to stop Larry Johnson and the Chiefs in Indianapolis (4:30 p.m. on NBC), and the Cowboys travel to Seattle to play the Seahawks (8 p.m. on NBC). On Sunday, the games continue with the Patriots-Jets in New England (1 p.m. on CBS) and the Eagles-Giants in Philadelphia (4:30 p.m. on FOX).

→ **NOT AGAIN:** The Capitals are home to play one of their 100 regular-season games against the Atlanta Thrashers on Saturday (7 p.m. on Comcast).



COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Bowl Humbug University of Florida denied requests from students for two "bowl days" next week, a local Florida TV station reported. School begins on Monday, but students wanted that day off to prepare for the football team's national title game against Ohio State at 8 p.m. and the next day off to allow them to recover from the potential celebrations that are sure to last late into the night if the Gators win. As a consolation prize, the administration agreed to extend the "drop/add" deadline four extra days. Woo-hoo! (EXPRESS)

Weekend | Sports

Bill and Eric's Adventure

Belichick and Mangini play nice in the week before the playoffs

FOOTBALL | Eric Mangini smiled when asked if his knack for making halftime adjustments was something he learned from watching Bill Belichick at "the other place."

That, of course, is New England. And the New York Jets coach has often referred to his former employer with that vague description. Mangini changed all that Wednesday.

"We can say 'New England' now," he said, causing the contingent of at least 40 media members at the Jets' practice facility to chuckle. "When I was at New England — with Bill — I thought he made outstanding adjustments."

That might have marked the first time this season he said the words "New England" and Belichick's first name in one breath.

Being in the playoffs apparently thaws out even the frostiest of relationships. The two coaches, who'll



Bill Belichick, left, congratulates Jets coach Eric Mangini, formerly an assistant of Belichick's in New England, after the Jets beat the Patriots 17-14 in New England.

meet again Sunday in the first round of the playoffs, were full of praise for each other Wednesday. It was a bit of a departure from the tension-

filled comments that at times overshadowed their first two meetings as opposing head coaches.

"Eric has done a great job and

he's seen the team improve through the course of the year," Belichick said on a conference call.

Mangini took it a step further.

"Obviously, Bill is going to the Hall of Fame as a coach," he said. "You can see that consistently in the level of play and the level of execution week in and week out."

That almost qualifies as a love fest, considering the apparent cold feelings the two have had since Mangini relinquished his role as Belichick's defensive coordinator to join the Jets last January. It's uncertain what led to the strain because neither coach will address it, but it was clear something went sour.

"I made comments about Eric when he was hired," Belichick said on Wednesday when asked about what happened between the two. "I still feel that way. Nothing has changed there. This game is about these two teams this week playing to keep their season alive. That's really what my focus is and that's what our team's focus is, to try and play well on Sunday and keep our team's season

Swengali

FOOTBALL | BY MATT SWENSON

Ravens, Eagles Super in 2007

IF YOU WERE TO GO BY LOGIC, which is always risky business, picking this year's Super Bowl teams should be as easy as picking out the guy with pointy ears in your office.

For those new to the game, there are two golden rules when playing NFL Nostradamus: Go with the hottest team and the best defense.

Now for the easy part: the NFC. The Bears have the best defense in the conference. Unfortunately, Rex Grossman is also their quarterback. In the playoffs, turnovers doom even the best of teams, and Grossman can't be trusted. So, logic dictates to choose the team playing best: the Eagles, who have been flying high

McNair came up a yard short in 2000's big game. It won't happen again.

Home Teams Get the Edge

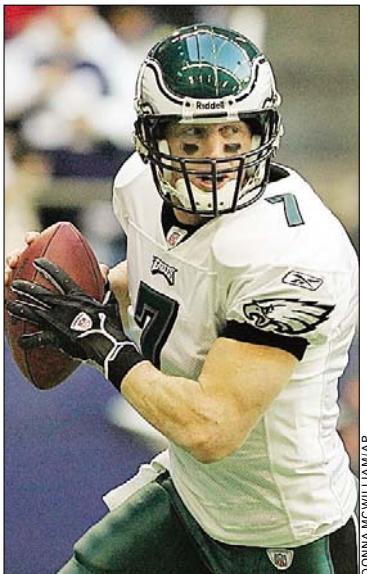
In the first weekend of playoff matchups, go with the favorites

FOOTBALL PICKS | When a series of fortuitous circumstances put Kansas City into the postseason and matched the Chiefs with Indianapolis, it almost certainly guaranteed one thing in their game Saturday: a lot of points.

These teams, after all, met three years ago in a playoff game at Arrowhead Stadium in which there were no punts. The Colts won that one 38-31.

This could be the same kind of contest when they begin the four-game wild-card weekend.

The Indianapolis run defense was by far the worst in the league, allowing 173 yards a game. The Chiefs have Larry Johnson, the NFL's second-leading rusher with 1,789 yards. The picks:



Jeff Garcia will try to lead the Eagles past the Giants in a game in Philadelphia.

→ **KANSAS CITY (PLUS 6.5) at INDIANAPOLIS.** Indianapolis certainly isn't playing well on defense. But the Colts are home. **COLTS, 31-27.**

→ **DALLAS (PLUS 3) at SEATTLE.** The Cowboys are playing badly — the defense allowed 39 points to Detroit last week. The Seahawks are playing better, perhaps in time for a push back to the Super Bowl in a conference where nobody stands out. **SEAHAWKS, 29-24.**

→ **NEW YORK JETS (PLUS 9) at NEW ENGLAND.** Big spread, considering the Jets won in Foxborough on Nov. 12. Pupil Eric Mangini, who gets under the skin of mentor Bill Belichick, will keep it close. **PATRIOTS, 20-16**

→ **NEW YORK GIANTS (PLUS 6 1/2) at PHILADELPHIA.** The Giants were a better and healthier team when they beat the Eagles at Philadelphia in the second week of the season. And Andy Reid has decided running works as well as passing. So this will be Tiki Barber's last game and perhaps Tom Coughlin's, too. **EAGLES, 31-13.**

Tomlinson Easily Grabs the NFL's MVP Award

FOOTBALL | Spell this year's NFL MVP: L.T.

Record-setting LaDainian Tomlinson of the San Diego Chargers ran away with The Associated Press NFL Most Valuable Player award Thursday the way he eluded defenders in leading his team to the AFC's best record (14-2) and a favorite's role for the Super Bowl.

"When you're MVP of the league, it's a great accomplishment," Tomlinson said, adding the honor means "that I've had a great year, that's all, on a great team."

Tomlinson, who broke Shaun Alexander's league record for touchdowns by scoring 31 (28 rushing) and also threw for two scores, had one of the greatest seasons in NFL history. He rushed for a league-high 1,815 yards on 348 carries, had 56 receptions for 508 yards and was 2-for-3 as a passer. **BARRY WILNER (AP)**

since Donovan McNabb got hurt. All of a sudden, Jeff Garcia can't be stopped and neither can Philly. Just as the Steelers got hot at the right time a year ago, the Eagles are now primed for a big-time run.

The AFC seems like a two-horse race featuring the Chargers and Ravens. San Diego hasn't lost since Oct. 22 and has a strong defense. Alas, Chargers coach Marty Schottenheimer hasn't won a playoff game since 1993. Back then, "Star Trek: The Next Generation" was cool ... sort of.

Even Mr. Spock knows to pick against Martyball in January.

Given the Ravens' No. 1-ranked D and their track record (2001 champs), they're the best bet.

Steve McNair came up a yard short in 2000's big game. It won't happen again, and the Ravens will win the battle of the birds. May they live long and prosper.

@ To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

Agent O Better Than Ever

Arenas is dominating opponents and looking like the league's MVP

WIZARDS | If Gilbert Arenas keeps this up, he'll have some MVP votes to go with his "swag."

As if dropping 60 and 54 points in the last three weeks weren't enough — and as if he weren't already stealing the spotlight with his all-star birthday party — the Washington Wizards point guard gave the nation's capital a showstopping, Jordan-esque moment Wednesday with a 32-foot, game-winning, buzzer-beater.

To top it all off, Arenas acted as

if he'd been there before. He turned his back to the basket with a snarl and started strolling away while the ball was in flight. The players celebrated the 108-105 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks at midcourt by greeting their star with chest bumps and yelling "Hibachi!" — the word Arenas sometimes yells when he knows he's hit all net.

"We call it swag," teammate Antawn Jamison said. "Gil has a great amount of swag out there. Once he took that shot, you definitely saw it."

Arenas is averaging 36 points in his last nine games. The Wizards are 15-1 when he scores 30 or more. He is third in the league in



MICHAEL LAYTON/GETTY IMAGES

Guard Gilbert Arenas high-fives teammates before Wednesday's game against the Bucks. Arenas drilled a 32-foot three-pointer to win the game at the buzzer.

scoring and is closing in on leaders Carmelo Anthony and Allen Iverson, yet he's third in the All-Star balloting among Eastern Conference guards behind Dwyane Wade and Vince Carter.

Arenas' teammates are beside themselves that he's still known more for being an oddball — which he is — than for being one of the game's best.

"The guy's been playing like this all year. Of late, the last month or so, it's been unbelievable," Jamison said. "I've never been a part of a team where a guy's been performing the way he's been performing."

After the game, Arenas was his usual colorful self while describing the shot. He claimed to be 8-for-8 from 35 feet or so this season.

"I don't know why this is a surprise to you guys now," he said.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Playing the Big East Is Hoyas' Test

Conference play signals the real start of the season for Georgetown

HOYAS HOOPS | In November, Georgetown was a Top 10 team on the cover of Sports Illustrated.

Now it's January, time for Big East play, and the Hoyas aren't even in the Top 25.

"We have to make an impact for ourselves because we kind of stumbled in the beginning," junior swingman Tyler Crawford said. "Us stumbling probably helped humble us. We know there's more work to do."

Home losses to Old Dominion and Oregon, plus a defeat at Duke, helped bounce Georgetown (10-3) from the early season glare. Now there are four Big East teams ranked ahead of them: No. 10 Pittsburgh, No. 17 Notre Dame, No. 18 Connecticut and No. 25 West Virginia.

Saturday's home game against the Fighting Irish opens a difficult two months of league play.

"It's what happens at the end of the year that's important," coach John Thompson III said. "The stuff early in the year is great, it's good for the program, it's good for



TONI SAWYER/GETTY IMAGES

Georgetown's Tyler Crawford, top, grabs a rebound in a win over James Madison.

the fans; but at the same time, it's not earned. And we've got to slowly but surely earn it."

Throughout the early season ups-and-downs, Thompson continued to preach that nonconference games were essentially warm-ups. Schools in weaker conferences can make or break their NCAA tournament hopes in November and December, but the Big East is so strong that Georgetown will have plenty of chances to prove its mettle.

"Everything is heightened," Thompson said. "There's more of a sense of urgency. Teams will be better prepared for us; we'll be better prepared for them. There's more familiarity with everything that's going on." JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Building From Hershey Up

Caps have core group that played together in the minors last year

CAPITALS | The day after completing his first full season in the NHL, Washington Capitals forward Brooks Laich was sent to the minors.

He was thrilled.

"Some guys might look at it as a demotion, but it's better than going home and sitting on the couch," he said this week. "When the other guys were going home, I was going to play in the playoffs."

At the end of a two-month, 21-game stretch that Laich called "the time of my life," his Hershey Bears were celebrating a ninth American Hockey League title.

Among those hoisting the Calder Cup last June were a half-dozen players who have become familiar faces on F Street this season. Landing an athlete like Alex Ovechkin is nice way to launch a rebuilding program, but having a group of young players come up together as champions brings a host of benefits.

"It translates in a lot of ways," said Laich, who has four goals and four assists this season. "You want your core guys to play together and like playing with each other, but I think one of the biggest things we



Forward Brooks Laich, left, has become one of a handful of Capitals players who played in the minors and won the Calder Cup last season with the Hershey Bears.

learned there was not to accept losing. For us, being competitive isn't enough."

Those intangibles are key to a team that started from scratch in 2005 and had lost five straight heading into last night's game against Montreal. The Caps (16-17-7) host Atlanta on Saturday.

The depth also helps. In addition to Laich, Kris Beech, Boyd Gordon, Jakub Klepis and Mike Green — all Calder Cup winners who now are

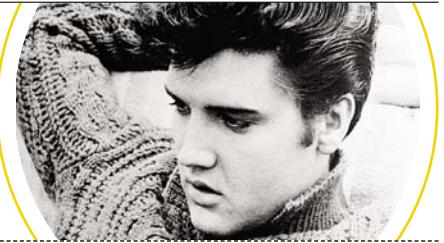
Caps regulars — players like defenseman Lawrence Nycholat have been invaluable as replacements for the injured. Caps coach Glen Hanlon said Nycholat has done "some great things" in his two-plus weeks in D.C.

"Those guys coming up aren't strangers. They know a lot of guys and it gives them a sense of comfort," Laich said. "You can be a little nervous at times, but I think we were prepared well." BRIAN STRAUS

Entertainment Weekend

NIGHTLIFE AGENDA:

Elvis Sightings: A pair of local watering holes honor the King's birthday. Also, dubstep DJ Joe Nice; DJ Meistro at U Street's Selam. | **26**



CAN'T WE ALL JUST GET ALONG? Hilary Swank plays an inner-city schoolteacher who helps her students overcome violence.

Falsely Hopeful

Hilary Swank plays the white knight in 'Freedom Writers'

FILM | Hilary Swank and the makers of "Freedom Writers" have the solution to all the troubles facing public-school classrooms seething with racial intolerance and hatred: Give the kids notebooks, have them scribble a few lines about the terrible

lives they've led, and soon they'll be pulling together for group hugs.

The true story behind "Freedom Writers" is amazing and inspiring. Rookie teacher Erin Gruwell came into a Long Beach, Calif., high school soon after the Rodney King riots in Los Angeles, defused the racism among black, white, Hispanic and Asian teens and injected hope into their lives. But director Richard LaGravenese's dramatization sadly

presents the Cliff's Notes account of Gruwell's accomplishment.

Erin (Swank) seems an impossibly naive optimist, choosing to teach English amid the racial strife at Wilson High School so she can be on the front line in the battle to help save the youth of America.

Her department head, veteran teacher Margaret Vail (Imelda Staunton), smugly dismisses Erin's aspirations. Her father

(Scott Glenn), a jaded liberal, thinks she's crazy to try. Her husband (Patrick Dempsey) is proud of Erin but soon sours as her job consumes her life.

Erin's faith is rocked early on as her classroom erupts in violence, the students segregate into racial territories and the kids scorn her attempts to connect with them. After a bothersome racial incident, Erin begins to draw on the students' shared dangers and strife at home and on the gang-ruled streets to create a sense of community among them. She distributes journals and instructs her students to write in them every day, soon discovering that kids rated at a fifth-grade reading level actually are poets in waiting.

Adapting his screenplay from "The Freedom Writers Diary" created and published by Gruwell and her students, LaGravenese abruptly turns the story from tension and division to devotion and togetherness. The movie plays out over two school years, but the action changes so suddenly, harmony seems to arrive overnight, punctuated by a musical montage or two.

There are legitimately powerful moments, including the students' cathartic visit to the Holocaust exhibit at Los Angeles' Museum of Tolerance, but too much of "Freedom Writers" rings falsely hopeful, bearing the message that a grin and good intentions are all that's needed to overcome enmity.

DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

Got Plans?

FOR COMPLETE WEEKEND LISTINGS, SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTONGPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

It's supposed to be beautiful on Saturday. Is there anything going on that would be perfect for a warm day?

Nothing particularly special, but the Mall's always good for meandering. Since the grounds can get a little gross in winter (if you call this winter), we'll suggest wandering around Tidal Basin, which is nice on crisp days. A trip to the National Gallery's Sculpture Garden (hopefully, the ice rink won't melt), the Botanic Garden or the new National Garden might be fun.

Of course, there's always Eastern Market, and while you're in the neighborhood, you can check out classes at the Capitol Hill Arts Workshop's open house.

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NIKKI KAIN
The epic flea market that is Eastern Market is a nice way to spend a nice day.

Another Hoodwinking

'Happily N'Ever After' is a sub-'Shrek' 'toon with little animation

FILM | When "Hoodwinked" came out a year ago, it felt like a poor man's "Shrek."

Guess that makes "Happily N'Ever After" totally uninspired, offering a poor man's "Hoodwinked."

It wouldn't seem possible, but this is yet another fractured fairy tale in which the characters subvert

their own genre in self-conscious, smart-alecky fashion.

The doofus prince (voiceover veteran Patrick Warburton) knows what to say and do because a book tells him to. The wizard's diminutive assistants (Wallace Shawn and Andy Dick), who help keep control of the story lines in Fairy Tale Land, are bored silly watching Sleeping Beauty and Rumpelstiltskin do the same things over and over. That is, until the evil stepmother (Sigourney Weaver), who's tired of happy endings her-



"Happily N'Ever After" is another weak attempt at a wacky, fractured fairy tale.

self, takes control and turns everything upside down.

It might have been a clever idea; instead, the film consists of a few snappy one-liners and too much filler. (Dick, who provides his rodent character with just the right snotty, flamboyant touch, gets the best jokes.)

After an hour, this thing just dies, and Sarah Michelle Gellar and Freddie Prinze Jr., as Cinderella and serving boy Rick, are the last people you want trying to revive it. Could there be a more boring real-life couple around whom to build a movie? Even rendering them in animated form doesn't make them any more animated.



My friend and I are going to the Kennedy Center to see the ballet. What's appropriate to wear?

Going to the ballet at the KC is a dressy occasion. Men: Break out the jacket and tie. A skirt and sweater or dress is fine for a woman.

The Going Out Gurus think you should get out more. Join the discussion Thursdays at 1 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline



SMELLS LIKE 'OBSESSION': "Perfume" is about a man without an odor of his own.

Murder With A Sweet Scent

The beloved novel 'Perfume' succeeds on the silver screen

FILM | Think of "Perfume: The Story of a Murderer" as an olfactory version of "The Silence of the Lambs": A perfume maker becomes a serial killer — or perhaps it's the other way around — to capture women's scents.

It's a fabulously twisted idea, based on the novel by Patrick Süskind and sensuously rendered in a fashion that's totally different from German director Tom Tykwer's best-known film, the vibrant "Run Lola Run."

Grenouille (played by British newcomer Ben Whishaw) merely follows his nose. With his wiry frame and intense eyes, Whishaw could be a modern-day Anthony Perkins as he methodically prowls for young girls and tests various methods of turning their essences into the finest perfume.

It's not that his Grenouille has any sexual interest in them — he's just entranced and obsessed by scent, having been blessed from birth with an unusually powerful proboscis. He's both ardent and eerie, appreciative and predatory.

And with a childlike enthusiasm, he doesn't seem to think that what he's doing is wrong. Which would make him a sociopath — and the ideal figure around whom to center such a visceral thriller.

Dustin Hoffman gets to chew the scenery as Giuseppe Baldini, his perfumer mentor. Once the toast of Paris, Baldini has since fallen out of fashion, though he still carries himself with the bravado of a power player. Alan Rickman is typically formidable as the father of the stunning redhead Grenouille seeks most, who will go to whatever lengths he must to protect his little girl when women start dropping at an alarming rate. But it's the sweet, virginal Laura, played by Rachel Hurd-Wood ("Peter Pan"), who is the ultimate object of Grenouille's affection — the one he believes will make his cannibalized cologne complete.

What he does with this concoction — and the effect it has on those who smell it — is ridiculously over-the-top. For a film that had been deeply, lushly delightfully sinister up until this point, the ending is just plain silly. It still looks great, though — and probably would smell even better.

CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

Screen Actors Guild Picks Released

'Babel,' 'Sunshine,' Leo and 'Dreamgirls' receive multiple nods

AWARDS | The ensemble drama "Babel," the musical "Dreamgirls" and the road-trip tale "Little Miss Sunshine" each earned three nominations Thursday for the Screen Actors Guild Awards, while Leon-

ardo DiCaprio and Helen Mirren both won two nominations.

Mirren was nominated as best actress in a film for playing the current British monarch in "The Queen" and as best actress in a TV movie or mini-

series for playing her 16th-century predecessor in "Elizabeth I."

DiCaprio had a lead-actor film nomination as a mercenary in the African adventure "Blood Diamond" and a supporting-actor nomination as a cop undercover in a Boston gang in "The Departed."

The awards will be presented Jan. 28 in a ceremony televised on TNT and TBS. DAVID GERMAIN (AP)

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Weekend | Entertainment

Peter Rabbit's Mama

Renee Zellweger busts out her British accent again for 'Miss Potter'

FILM | "Miss Potter" is a more successful pairing of Renee Zellweger and Ewan McGregor than the kitschy, cloying '60s spoof "Down With Love."

The story of how children's author Beatrix Potter got her start certainly has its charms. But it also feels more lightweight than it should and simultaneously not magical enough, considering this is the first film director Chris Noonan has made since the brilliant "Babe" from 1995. It has touches of whimsy, but not enough.

The script traces Beatrix's literary beginnings in Victorian Lon-

don, when she takes her drawings of bunnies and ducks and turns them into unexpected literary classics. In Zellweger's hands, Beatrix is both a bit daffy and slightly nerdy but clever and persistent. And while she is indefatigable, we never quite see what drives her.

She gets great help from her attentive editor Norman Warne, played by McGregor beneath tailored suits and a very jaunty mustache. But his interest in her turns out to be more than just professional: He harbors a secret crush, one Beatrix is surprised to find she reciprocates, having long since sworn off marriage. Beatrix also finds a kindred spirit and quick friendship with Norman's sister, Millie, played with intelligence, quick wit and great spark



BEATRIX POTTER'S DIARY: Renee Zellweger as the children's author in "Miss Potter."

by Emily Watson.

With their support, she turns out books including "The Tale of Peter Rabbit," which would go on to be beloved by children to this day, as well as the adventures of Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle, Jemima Puddleduck and other creatures. Flashbacks to Beatrix's childhood, when she spent summers with her parents and younger brother in England's Lake District, show the earliest stirrings of her fertile imagination.

We also see the beginning of what will become important to Beatrix toward the end of her life: preserving the land in this splendidly rural area. As Beatrix and Norman start to talk of marriage, Beatrix dreams of bringing her future husband to this treasured place.

A tragedy prevents that from happening, and it takes "Miss Potter" in a sharply dark direction. But ultimately it makes Beatrix a stronger woman; watching her come into her own on many levels at once is a joy.



CHRISTY LEMIRE (AP)

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'The O.C.' Waves Sad Bye-Bye

ADIOS | The once-hot teenage soap opera "The O.C." has been canceled.

The final episode of the television drama, which saw its ratings plummet during the last seasons, will air 9 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 22, Fox TV and Warner Bros. Television Production Inc. said Wednesday.

The finale "will deliver real closure to the series, to the story we began telling four years ago," series creator Josh Schwartz said in a statement. "It will be fun and emotional and I think really satisfying. It is the finale we always planned to do."

Based in the affluent Orange County, Calif., city of Newport Beach, "The O.C." caught fire in its first season, 2003-04, as the top-rated drama among advertiser-favored young adults and with a total audience of nearly 10 million.

The show's story lines revolved

SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES



Mischa Barton was one of the unknown actors that "The O.C." made into a star.

around Ryan (Benjamin McKenzie), an outsider thrust into a heady new world of money and sex, and rich high school kids including Seth Cohen (Adam Brody) and Marissa Cooper (Mischa Barton) and their families.

"The O.C." did not sustain its momentum, dropping to about 7 million weekly viewers during 2004-05 and then to fewer than 6 million last season. This year, returning in November after Fox wrapped its postseason baseball coverage, "The O.C." has only drawn about 4 million viewers.

Despite its brief heyday, the show helped establish cast members including Brody and Barton as fan and tabloid favorites.

LYNN ELBER (AP)

Now Playing

APOCALYPTO (R, 135 minutes) Mel Gibson's new film is set in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula in vaguely pre-Columbian times, in that seemingly endless epoch when the mighty Mayan city-states ruled supreme. Our hero is one Jaguar Paw (brilliant Rudy Youngblood), of an indigenous forest people who live happy, simple lives. But one morning, the Mayas arrive in force. The results are not pretty. You can see where this is going, but that doesn't really prevent you from



BOX OFFICE BASH: The comedy "Night at the Museum," starring Ben Stiller as a security guard, has defied the critics and raked in nearly \$140 million dollars.

enjoying it immensely. (SH)

BABEL (R, 142 minutes) Director Alejandro González Iñárritu and writer Guillermo Arriaga tell multiple stories in multiple locations around the globe. Each tale is completely compelling on its own, and Iñárritu also proves superb at working with amateur actors. Yet as sophisticated a piece of filmmaking as it is, it seems hamstrung by the banality at its center and it never assembles into a satisfying whole. (SH)

BLACK CHRISTMAS (R, 84 minutes) We learn in cheesy 1970s and 1980s flashbacks how psychotic killer William

Edward Lenz, or Billy, came to be his evil self. These little golden moments from Billy's past are intercut with the contemporary story in which Billy (Robert Mann) escapes from a prison for the criminally insane and stalks a group of sorority sisters. Horror movie audiences will be roundly disappointed by this movie's conventional tactics. (DT)

BLOOD DIAMOND (R, 125 minutes) Pounding action, pulse-quenching adventure and of-the-moment politics animate this mostly great thriller starring Leonardo DiCaprio. He plays a smuggler named who finds himself a mercenary middleman between rebels in Sierra Leone and European diamond merchants. Things get out of hand during the last half-hour, but the movie is a gem. (AH)

BORAT: CULTURAL LEARNINGS OF

lem, this movie turns out to be cracking good entertainment. Daniel Craig kicks major maximus as a Bond who'd never use a computer where a punch will do. And he is seemingly the first Bond to actually bleed. Half an hour too long and with too many villains, the movie nevertheless proves you seldom go wrong if you make a movie that leaves you stirred, not shaken. (SH)

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G, 98 minutes) E.B. White's children's book starring Wilbur the curly-tailed runt, his human friend, Fern and spider Charlotte has been

charming kids into bed forever. Those kids and their children can rest assured that the movie shares their reverence. The performers, at times, sound as if they're doing a casual read-through before the actual show—but their relaxed spirit is subtly satisfying. (DT)

CHILDREN OF MEN (R, 106 minutes) This audacious, sweeping, sobering and finally exhilarating film by Alfonso Cuarón stars Clive Owen as a bureaucrat in 2027

London, the last outpost of the closest thing to civilization in a world gripped by pandemic infertility and a worldwide

immigration crisis. When Owen's character, Theo, is pulled back into his activist past by his former lover, Julian (Julianne Moore), he embarks on an epic chase adventure in which the motivation is nothing less than the survival of the human race. Adapting P.D. James's futuristic novel, Cuarón makes masterful use of cinematic grammar to create a story, a mood and an atmosphere that feels eerily contemporary. (AH)

CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R, 114 minutes) Zhang Yimou's film is a kind of

Continued on page 20

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Weekend | Entertainment

Now Playing

Continued from page 19

feast, kitschy and grand all at once. The great Chow Yun Fat plays the Emperor Ping, home from the wars at last, eager to lose himself in the bosom of his family. Except that everyone is busy plotting against one another. The emperor's wife (Gong Li) has a grudge against him: He's slowly killing her with poison. The movie substitutes spectacle for emotional intimacy, and Chow has been better. But that all but concedes the film to Gong, who gives a grand, operatic performance. (SH)

DEJA VU (PG-13, 128 minutes) ATF agent

Doug Carlin (Denzel Washington) goes back in time to unravel a crime. The movie attempts to explain the "science" behind the movie's time-jumping, but in a drama that's contemporary and supposedly realistic, it comes off as cockamamie. (DT)

THE DEPARTED (R, 149 minutes) A

deranged wit runs through this film, which finds Martin Scorsese up to his same old tricks of exploring an American ethnic subculture with frequent detours into carnage and mayhem. Scorsese plumbs the colorful depths of the Irish mob in Boston. The movie crackles right along, stopping only for Scorsese's signature bursts of explosive violence. (AH)

DREAMGIRLS (PG-13, 131 minutes)

"Dreamgirls" arrives with more than its share of baggage; the hit Broadway musical, which opened in 1981, is such a cherished icon that it's taken 25 years for it to be made into a movie. But even with Jennifer Hudson's triumphant arrival and an overall fizzy mood of singing, dancing, pop nostalgia and camp, "Dreamgirls" is an uneven crowd pleaser. With a promising director (Bill Condon, who wrote "Chicago") and a dazzling cast that includes Beyoncé Knowles, Jamie Foxx and Eddie Murphy, the movie not only looks good on paper; it looks great on-screen, too. But it also often sags when it should sparkle, lags when it should

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Entertainment | Weekend

Now Playing



go lickety-split and plays it safe when, like Hudon's Effie, it should sell it to the cheap seats. (AH)

ERAGON (PG, 99 minutes) In the gorgeous middle earth that is Alagaesia, the evil Galbatorix (John Malkovich) has destroyed all the dragon riders and taken over. Meanwhile, a young beauty played dimly by Sienna Guillory escapes from his castle with the last dragon egg, which she manages to deliver to farm boy-archer Eragon, fated to be the new dragon rider. After the bad acting by the slumping great actors, the next best thing in the picture is the dragon. (SH)

FLUSHED AWAY (PG, 87 minutes) This first computer-generated cartoon by Aardman Animations—best known for Nick Park's brilliant "Wallace & Gromit"

Clive Owen plays an antihero who helps save mankind in "Children of Men."

franchise—does away with the clay but leaves the craft and emotion intact. When circumstances conspire to send Roddy, a pet mouse (Hugh Jackman), down the loo and into a sewer-level London populated by rats, toads, the odd frog and a charming Greek chorus of slugs, he

discovers what's really important in life. Shot through with cheeky wit and hilarious musical numbers by slugs. (AH)

THE GOOD GERMAN (R, 110 minutes) George Clooney plays Jake, a war correspondent and former Berlin AP bureau chief, now a two-fisted New Republic columnist. He arrives in Berlin ostensibly to cover the Potsdam Conference, but really to find his old squeeze. Director Steven Soderbergh's idea was to take a recent thriller set in the 1940s and make it as a '40s picture. But the movie lies there as if on a slab in a morgue, while you admire the corpse for its beauty. (SH)

THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R, 157 minutes) Edward Wilson (Matt Damon) is from one of those old families—the ones that knew everybody, got the best jobs and knew which wine went with which course. The thrust of the film is his journey to becoming a Central Intelligence Agency player

Continued on page 22



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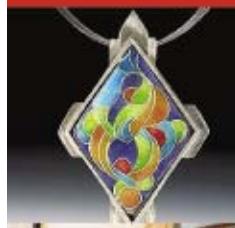
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Continued from page 23

his son. The movie is almost devised like a rat-in-maze experiment. Every few minutes, some new obstacle comes up for Chris, at which point the film stands back and watches him improvise. (sh)

THE QUEEN (PG-13, 99 minutes) England's

constitutional irony is the chilly but entertaining subplot of Stephen Frears' tragicomedy. The crisis begins in late August 1997, when Queen Elizabeth II (Helen Mirren) learns of Princess Diana's death. Mirren's finely calibrated performance reveals a complex woman coping with a bewildering world. (dt)

ROCKY BALBOA (PG, 98 minutes) There's Sylvester Stallone again, sucking down raw eggs and pounding sides of beef

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HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) ✓ (11:00 @ \$5), 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 8:45, 11:15
BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) ✓ (10:05 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:15, 5:55, 8:30, 11:05
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (10:30, 11:25 @ \$5), 2:30, 3:10, 6:35, 7:35, 10:20, 11:30
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) (CC) (11:25 @ \$5), 3:10, 7:35, 11:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (10:55, 11:35 @ \$5), 1:45, 2:30, 4:25, 5:15, 7:05, 7:50, 9:55, 12:45
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) (10:15 @ \$5), 4:25, 10:30
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) (11:55 @ \$5), 2:45, 5:35, 8:15, 10:45
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) (11:40 @ \$5), 2:20, 5:00, 7:20, 9:50
ERAGON (PG) 12:30, 3:30, 5:40, 8:20, 10:55
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG13) (10:15, 11:15 @ \$5), 1:20, 2:10, 4:15, 5:05, 7:10, 8:10, 10:10, 11:10, 1:00
APOCALYPTO (R) 12:00, 7:25
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) (10:20 @ \$5), 1:40, 4:45, 8:05, 11:30
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:20, 3:40, 6:50, 10:05
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) 8:25, 11:40
HAPPY FEET (PG) (10:00 @ \$5), 12:35, 3:10, 5:45
THE DEPARTED (R) 10:40 PM

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CHILDREN OF MEN (R) ✓ (11:50 @ \$5), 2:30, 5:20, 8:00, 10:50
PERFUME: THE STORY OF A MURDERER (R) ✓ (11:45 @ \$5), 3:30, 7:00, 10:30
THR3E (PG13) (10:30 @ \$5), 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:50, 11:30

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HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) 12:40, 2:55, 5:15, 7:30, 9:40
BLACK CHRISTMAS (R) 7:20, 9:40
THE GOOD SHEPHERD (R) 1:00, 4:30, 8:00
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:30, 4:30, 7:15, 10:40
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) 1:30, 4:15, 7:15, 9:50
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 12:40, 3:30, 5:20, 7:40, 10:00
ERAGON (PG) 1:10, 4:10, 7:00, 9:30
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG13) 12:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
HAPPY FEET (PG) 1:15, 4:20

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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (CC) 12:10, 2:40, 5:10, 7:40, 10:05
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 12:15, 2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45
THE PURSUIT OF HAPPYNES (PG13) 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:40
BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 3:45, 9:55
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 12:40, 6:50

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NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) (CC) 2:00, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
ROCKY BALBOA (PG) 12:00, 2:25, 4:55, 7:25, 9:55
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BLOOD DIAMOND (R) 12:40, 3:50, 7:05, 10:20
THE HOLIDAY (PG13) 1:00, 4:05, 7:10, 10:30
CASINO ROYALE (PG13) 12:20, 3:35, 6:50, 10:05

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CURSE OF THE GOLDEN FLOWER (R) 2:20, 5:05, 7:50, 10:45
DREAMGIRLS (PG13) 1:05, 4:00, 7:00, 10:10
CHILDREN OF MEN (R) 1:50, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
NOTES ON A SCANDAL (R) 12:15, 2:50, 5:20, 8:00, 10:40

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HAPPILY N'EVER AFTER (PG) 2:00, 4:30, 7:15, 9:30
NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM (PG) 1:50, 4:45, 7:45, 10:15
WE ARE MARSHALL (PG) 6:50, 9:50
CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) 2:20, 5:15, 8:00, 10:25
ERAGON (PG) 2:10, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
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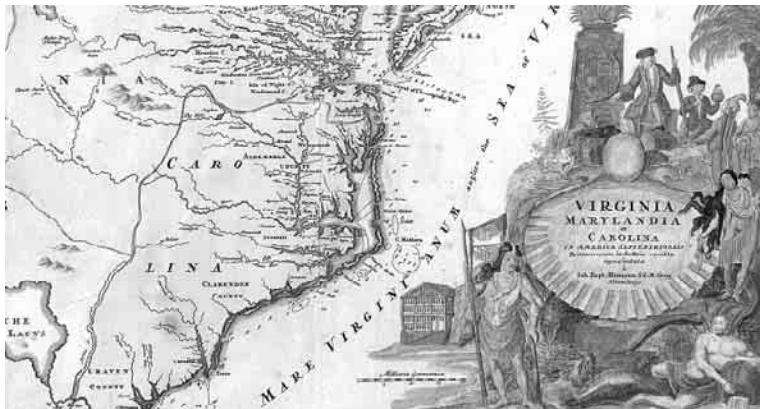
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Nightlife Agenda

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TONIGHT? BY FRITZ HAHN, RHOME ANDERSON AND DAVID MALITZ

FRIDAY

D.C.'s nightlife scene remains largely stratified by race, income and sexual orientation, so we appreciate the efforts of people like Karl Jones and his friends at the Guerrilla Queer Bar Takeover, a monthly happy hour that forces gay and straight barhoppers to spend a few hours together. Jones also is a founder of Taint, DC9's monthly dance party for gay fans of indie and electro music. Starting tonight, Taint joins forces with Bliss, the Black Cat's monthly dance party for fans of indie and electro music, for Infamy, a monthly late-night showcase at the **9:30 CLUB**. DJs Will Eastman and Bill Coleman start spinning at 11 p.m. Daisy Spurs, a "crunkadelic" New York dance troupe, will also perform.

As we look over year-end lists compiled by electronic music magazines and DJs, it's hard to miss the growing praise for dubstep — a dark, bass-heavy mix of garage and soulful house — but we don't read enough about Joe Nice, a Baltimore-based DJ whose forward-thinking mix CDs and online radio shows have earned him the chance to DJ in London alongside the scene's heaviest hitters. Nice is at Shock-out!, a new dubstep night at **MEZZA LUNA**, alongside DJs Ricky Ricardo & Signal, Whighzeguy and Brother Pinch. MC Shawn Lucas rocks the mic. The \$5 cover is a steal.

SATURDAY

Almost 20 years after Elvis Presley (allegedly) died at Graceland, local bars and clubs are still throwing over-the-top birthday parties in the King's honor. **DR. DREMO'S TAPHOUSE** offers Elvis karaoke, professional impersonators, a costume contest, a special menu and more. Admission is free for those dressed like Elvis. Over at **CHICK HALL'S**, Surfin' With the King is a rockin' birthday luau with the excellent local band the Hula Monsters, who will no doubt perform classics like "Rock-a-Hula" and "Blue Hawaii." Again, there's a costume contest (male and female categories) with cash

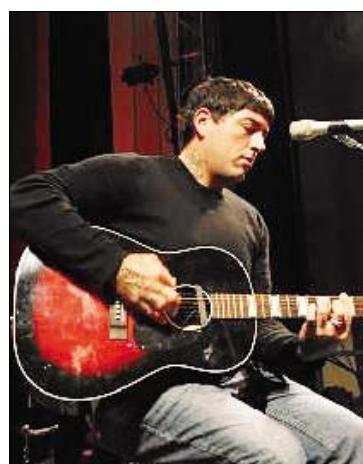


LONG LIVE THE KING: Elvis may have died, but Elvis impersonation is immortal.

and prizes. Chick's also offers a trivia contest.

When Apex's Liquid Ladies dance night ended a few months ago, it was a serious blow to D.C.'s lesbian club scene. There's only one full-time lesbian bar (Phase One) and a mere handful of weekly or monthly parties. At a new weekly dance night, the Kitty Cat Lounge, at **JACK'S** (the former Le Pigalle spot on 17th Street), promoters promise drink specials, no cover, hip-hop, indie rock, Top 40 and reggae. Doors open at 10 p.m.

Brandon Butler sure can vary his shows. Sometimes he's backed by a full band, but tonight's performance will be a solo affair. On record, he plays stark folk ballads with a sometimes piercing voice, and he represents that side of himself in a live setting, but just as often he can be found cracking



COURTESY BRANDON BUTLER.NET

Ex-Canyon member and Americana fan Brandon Butler, gigging Saturday.

jokes, telling stories and goofing off. Butler performs with the Hold Up at **GALAXY HUT**, where you can still legally enjoy a smooth, tasty Parliament Light.

SELAM is a small basement restaurant on U Street that served as the launchpad for the FunkDC DJ crew. We haven't seen anything going on in that space since those cats moved on to Bossa and Eighteenth Street Lounge, but tonight at Selam, DJs Meistro and Holiday kick off a monthly party called Solid Gold. Known for gigging at Wonderland, Meistro will focus on the dancehall and classic hip-hop elements of his arsenal.

SUNDAY

Ah, Chapel Hill. How exactly did the quaint North Carolina college town become such a hub for indie rock, home to bands such as Superchunk, Archers of Loaf and Polvo, as well as Merge Records? Sweater Weather hails from Chapel Hill but doesn't share the angular, abrasive sound of the aforementioned bands; the sextet is more likely to employ a xylophone than a blast of distortion and pretty harmonies instead of shouted call-and-response vocals. It might be a bit sleepy for a Sunday night, but with solid local acts the Foreign Press and Mikal Evans also on the bill, the show at **THE RED AND THE BLACK** is worth the trip.

An extended version of "Nightlife Agenda" is always available at www.washingtonpost.com/cityguide

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RENTALS

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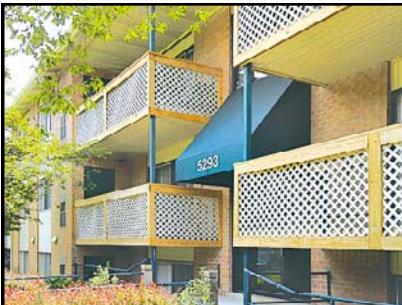
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Mercury 2006 Mountaineer—\$27750, 6K mi., NAV, 3rd row, KBB, 29450, black/beige, heat seats, excellent cond., lease available (swapple.com), (703)734-0702

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MERCURY '92 Sable—Sta Wagon. Fully loaded, am/fm stereo, auto, excel cond. 108K mi, \$950. 240-744-2580.

Mini 2005 Cooper S—\$6000 obo, excellent cond, 36K mi, Blue ext, abs, alarm, air ps, air dr, manual, sound system, ps, cd, 500-288-9268

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Procreation

It pays to have kids this year in Germany, thanks to a new law

When her water broke early on New Year's Eve, Julia Gotschlich was mainly thinking about the imminent birth of her second child. But she couldn't help worrying about family finances, too.

She and her husband stood to lose out on more than \$13,200 if the baby arrived before midnight, when Germany's generous new family benefits took effect — part of a government effort to raise one of the lowest birthrates in Europe.

Births in Germany dropped 4 percent in 2005 from the previous year, according to figures from the Federal Statistics Agency, to around 690,000. That's the lowest since World War II.

A recent government study forecast that Germany's population will drop by as much as 16 percent by 2050. That could hurt the economy by sapping the work force — and undermine the state pension system.

Facing such an alarming demographic trend, the German govern-

ment has shaken up its financial assistance to parents in a bid to make it easier for working women to have children.

The new "Elterngeld" — or "parent money" — program allows an adult who stops work after a child is born to continue to claim two-thirds of his or her net wage, up to a maximum \$2,375 per month. Low earners can claim 100 percent compensation for lost wages.

Gotschlich's baby, Inka Ange-

“At first, I thought: ‘Can’t you wait a little longer?’”

JULIA GOTSCHLICH, NEW MOM

lina, held off just long enough to qualify for the new German law, emerging 63 minutes into 2007. That means Mom will be able to finance a full year off from work as opposed to just eight weeks with her first child.

"At first, I thought: 'Can't you wait a little longer?'" Gotschlich said at Berlin's Auguste-Viktoria Hospital.

As midnight approached, "the doctors and midwives were encouraging me that maybe we would make it into the new year after all,

INSIDE

Club Paris fires its official mascot — Paris Hilton | 38

Blog Log: Mourning the poor old 'O.C.' | 36

Blog Bits: Add this to the In/Out list | 36



MICHAEL SOHN/AP

WELL-TIMED: Julia Gotschlich qualifies for Germany's new "parent money" program because her baby was born on Jan. 1.

Baby Bonus

to qualify for the new bonuses.

Gotschlich and her husband decided to have a second child two years ago — long before Chancellor Angela Merkel's left-right coalition took power vowing to do more for families.

Although Gotschlich said the family will still earn less than when both she and her husband worked, the new incentive plan will make life easier.

"We'll have to see what kind of vacation we have this year," she said. "We can still afford one, though the car and the washing machine had better not break down."

STEPHEN GRAHAM (AP)

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What About 'Silver Bling'?

LISTS | If you read Hank Stuever's list of what's in and out for 2007 in The Washington Post, you probably saw that the Food Network's



Deen

Here's one thing of local interest that didn't make Stuever's list, but did show up on an in/out list tailored for Montgomery County by blogger JUSTUPTHEPIKE.BLOGSPOT.COM: How to market the renaissance in Silver Spring. Out goes "Silver Sprung."

In, the blogger suggests: "Silver Bling."

See? No need for marketing agencies. **MICHAEL GRASS (EXPRESS)**

Plans for Jan. 15?

VOLUNTEERING | For many, the three-day Martin Luther King Jr. weekend is a time to escape work and the city.

But with skiing conditions less-than-ideal this year, why not think about volunteering for the Martin

Ways to get involved can be found at SERVE.DC.GOV. M.G.



SARAH VOISIN/TWP

CIVIC IDENTITIES: Sure, Silver Spring may have sprung, but does it have bling?

Luther King Jr. Day of Service? It's what the Jan. 15 holiday is really about anyway.

→ Coming Up Today

Starting at midnight, Green and Yellow line trains will share a single track through downtown. Prepare for moderate delays this weekend.

Poll Center

TODAY'S QUESTION

Is Gilbert Arenas the NBA's most valuable player?

1. Yes
2. No

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Will the Democrats accomplish their '100 hours' agenda?

NO **YES**

52%

48%

As of 5 p.m. Thursday. Not a scientific poll.

GIVE YOUR OPINION ON TODAY'S POLL QUESTION AND GET A STATION-BY-STATION BREAKDOWN OF HOW YOUR FELLOW METRORAIL COMMUTERS VOTED AT READEXPRESS.COM/POLLCENTER.PHP



"[S]tepping past its threshold, I was struck by a void — no cigarette smoke, just stale beer and cleansing product."

PRETTIESBOY.BLOGSPOT.COM VISITED THE 17TH STREET NW BAR FOX AND HOUNDS ON WEDNESDAY AND WAS SURPRISED THAT IN A SMOKING BAN-DOMINATED CITY, THE PLACE'S ODOR HAS CHANGED.

Overheard at Starbucks

"I can barely tolerate the suburban mom on her cell phone chatting away with a Louis Vuitton diaper bag draped over her shoulder, extolling the benefits of 'me-time' while reminding everyone within earshot how little Madison is smarter than her playmates."

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JASONHAWN.BLOGSPOT.COM PRAISES WASHINGTON WIZARD GILBERT ARENAS FOR HIS BUZZER-BEATING WIN ON WEDNESDAY.



William Rehnquist: A Late Visionary

"Not that this has anything to do with what's going on in the nation today, but it is a little interesting to read about [William Rehnquist's] human foibles. Tranks, Freedom of Information Act!"

PINKDOME.COM REACTS TO A REPORT RELEASED BY THE FBI ON THE LATE U.S. CHIEF JUSTICE THAT DISCLOSED AN EPISODE OF HALLUCINATIONS SPARKED BY PAINKILLER WITHDRAWAL IN 1981.



Live Online

Who's Running?

Washington Post national political reporter **LOIS ROMANO** was online Thursday at washingtonpost.com to discuss possible 2008 presidential bids and the new, Democratic Congress.

What are you hearing from congressional Democrats off the record about a Hillary Clinton presidential candidacy? Are they wary of having her at the top of the ticket?

Many Democrats love Hillary, but there is a sense that she could be polarizing at the top of the ticket. One thing you hear a lot is the hope that she will open up more and show a more personable side — like her husband.

What do you think of John Edwards' chances? I like him. He may not be as polarizing as Clinton or controversial as [Barack] Obama. Do you think the fact that Clinton is a woman and that Obama is black will deter people from voting for them?

Edwards can't be underestimat-

ed. He's smart and has personal money and has spent much time in Iowa. It's way too early to predict how things will play out. For one, Obama is not tested as a candidate yet. With respect to whether people will vote for a woman and a black — people say they will in polls. But we won't know until they go into the voting booth.

Isn't Clinton's stance (or rather lack of it) on Iraq a serious issue/problem for potential Democratic voters?

It is an issue for sure — and might pose a problem in the primaries where people will have a choice. Edwards has repudiated his vote for the war; Obama was always against it.

How will Nancy Pelosi take a male-dominated Congress and transform it to become more female? In other words, after 218 years of mainly men on Capitol Hill, what can she do to make the Congress more female-friendly?

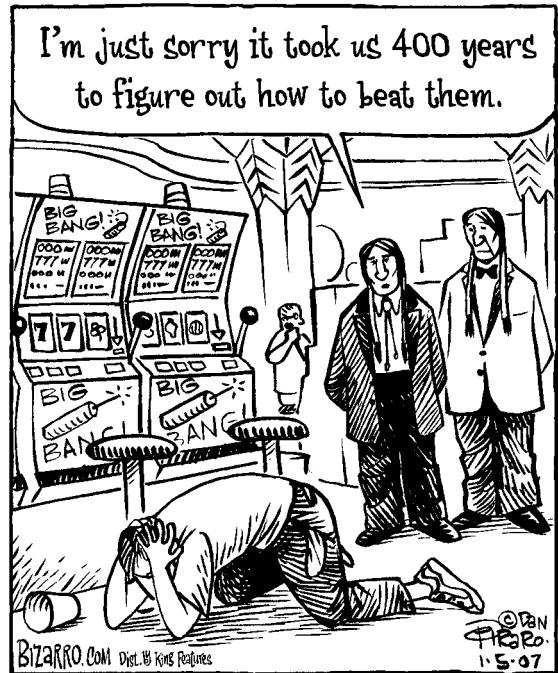
A record number of women serve in the U.S. Congress today — 13 women in the U.S. Senate and 61 in the House of Representatives. Things are already changing fast.

DON'T

PUT AN ENVIRONMENTALIST BUMPER STICKER ON YOUR HUMMER. It's easy to talk green; it's just as easy to be a hypocrite. The Concourse of Hypocrisy (zombietime.com/concourse_of_hypocrisy) posts photos of gas-guzzlers adorned with enviro slogans.

TODAY ON LIVE ONLINE: Washington Post staff writer Tarik El-Bashir will take your questions about the Capitals at 2 p.m. | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Bizarro | Dan Piraro



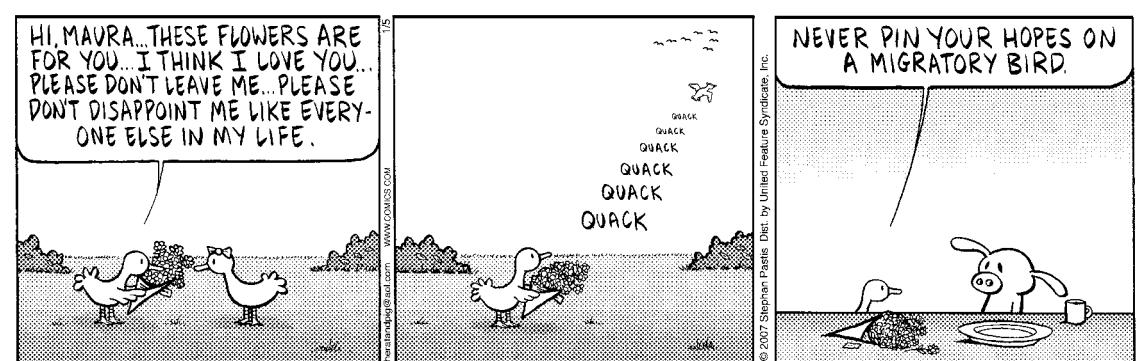
Cornered | Mike Baldwin



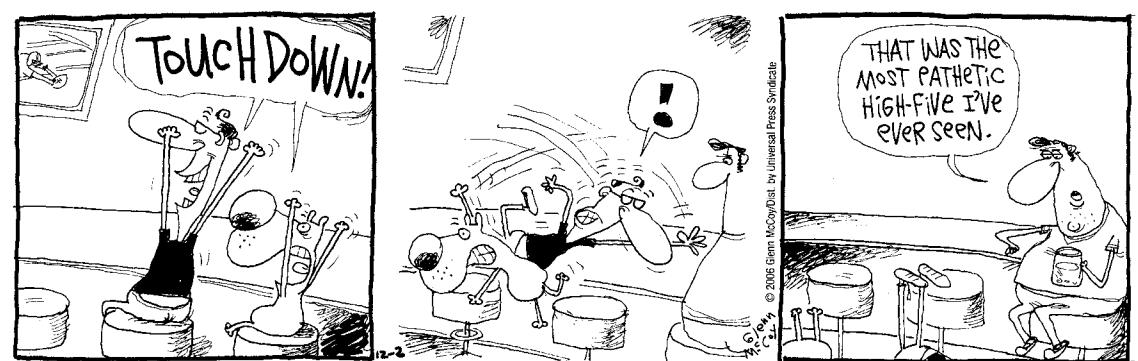
Pooch Cafe | Paul Gilligan



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Avoid being showy, flashy, overly dramatic — and don't take things too personally. Employ conservative decision-making techniques.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Focus on domestic affairs. If you're not sure you've been intentionally offended, then give the other guy a break.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) In the end, you may attract the wrong kind of attention if you're not careful. Now is no time to try to fill someone else's shoes.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Now is not the time to rebel in any way but rather to assume a more quiet, accepting, cooperative demeanor. Patience is a virtue.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can prove you know how to make the best of it — but the dangers are very real if your mental and physical reserves are running low.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) The game's afoot — but the reality of your present

situation may not fully live up to your expectations. There is much you can accomplish.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) This is a good day to break from routine, to get out and about, to enjoy all that your surroundings have to offer.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Many may consider you an expert, but you cannot help feeling a little insecure. Devote your energies to organization.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You have much more to learn before you are really comfortable in your current situation. You may be acting in a manner unbecoming to your position.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You may resent being told what to do — and at the same time you run the risk of becoming over-involved in something complicated.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Do you know the difference between fact and fiction? An episode from your past may seem real and current; don't be fooled.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll want to be noticed wherever you go. Your knack for getting and staying out of trouble may desert you briefly during midday.

Letters

Misguided Photo Comparison

WHILE I AGREE that the Saddam photos and the video are not appropriate, I found the letter comparing them ("Saddam Photos in Bad Taste, Jan. 4) to photos of African

Americans being lynched distasteful. Most African-Americans who were lynched were guilty of nothing more than the color of their skin. As someone who has spent time in Iraq, I can guarantee you that Saddam was guilty of much more heinous actions and fully deserved his end.

— JOHN LATHAM
Stafford, Va.

WRITE TO EXPRESS: Include name, hometown and telephone number. Submissions may be edited. E-mail to inbox@readexpress.com or mail to Express Letters, PO Box 17370, Arlington, VA 22216.

Today in History

1589 Catherine de Medici dies at the age of 69.

1781 A British naval expedition led by Benedict Arnold burns Richmond, Va.

1895 French Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, convicted of treason, is publicly stripped of his rank. (He was ultimately vindicated.)

1949 In the State of the Union, President Truman labels his administration the Fair Deal.

1956 In what would become known as the Eisenhower Doctrine, President Eisenhower proposes offering military assistance to



Sonny Bono, left, who made the leap from TV to Congress, died today in 1998.

Middle Eastern countries so they can resist communist aggression.

1998 Sonny Bono, the 1960s pop star-turned politician, is killed when he strikes a tree while skiing in South Lake Tahoe, Calif. He was 62.

LOOK out

People



One of these people has evaded taxes!

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

It's Not Sunny or Funny In This Rich Man's World

Swedish tax officials want former ABBA member **BJÖRN ULVÆUS** to pay \$2.1 million in undeclared royalties dating back decades. It is the second time the Swedish Tax Authority has claimed the 61-year-old singer dodged taxes by not declaring millions in royalties going back decades, officials said Thursday. (AP)

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Kindergartners Find His Actions Totally Reasonable



BUSTA RHYMES has been charged with misdemeanor assault stemming from a man's complaint that Rhymes beat him in a dispute over money. The judge set bail at \$3,500 for the third-degree assault charge. (AP)



PAUL MCGONNELL/GETTY IMAGES

NOMENCLATURE

Now It's Just 'Club'

Two nightclubs known as Club Paris will no longer be associated with their namesake, **PARIS HILTON**, according to the club's owner. Fred Khaliliani said he "fired" Hilton because she has failed to attend scheduled appearances at the location in downtown Orlando. The troubles started two years ago when Hilton showed up six hours late for the grand opening, Khaliliani said. (AP)

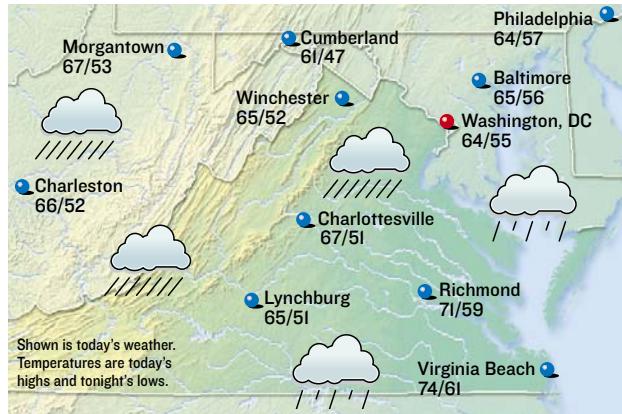
5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area

Today	Tonight
Morning fog, mild, rain, breezy	Cloudy, a shower, breezy, mild
64°	55°

Saturday	Sunday
Warmer, partly sunny	Cooler, partly sunny
73° / 45°	53° / 38°

Monday	Tuesday
Chance of a little morning rain	Partly sunny
49° / 31°	49° / 33°

Regional Weather



Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2007

Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Thur.
Temperature

High	61°
Low	42°
Normal high	43°
Normal low	28°
Average humidity	69%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	1.03"
Normal month to date	0.40"
Year to date	1.03"
Last year to date	0.46"
Normal year to date	0.40"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

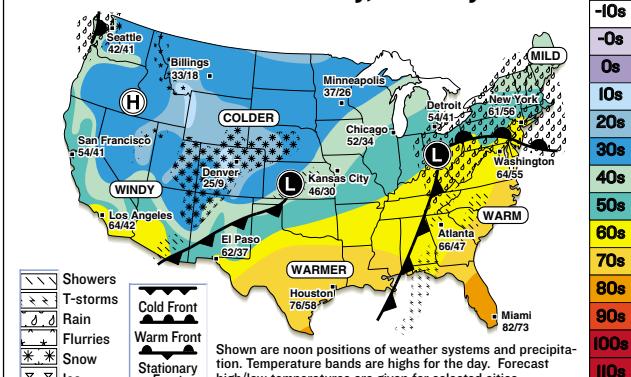
D.C. Metro: Today, partly sunny, mild. High 64. Wind southwest 7-14 mph. Tonight, partly cloudy. Low 47. Friday, mild, rain. High 66.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:27 a.m.
Sunset tonight 5:00 p.m.
Moonrise today 7:14 p.m.
Moonset today 9:10 a.m.



National Weather for Friday, January 5



National Cities

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sat. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	66/47/sh	71/51/c	Amsterdam	50/45/sh	48/41/r
Boston	57/50/r	60/44/pc	Athens	52/41/pc	50/41/pc
Chicago	52/34/pc	41/27/pc	Berlin	43/41/sh	46/36/c
Dallas	70/42/s	54/35/c	Buenos Aires	82/66/pc	79/64/pc
Denver	25/9/sn	37/17/s	Calgary	33/18/pc	28/19/pc
Honolulu	80/69/sh	80/70/s	Dublin	48/41/sh	48/45/pc
Los Angeles	64/42/s	70/45/s	Geneva	45/37/c	45/37/c
Miami	82/73/pc	86/70/pc	Moscow	34/28/c	30/29/sn
New York City	61/56/r	69/47/pc	Rome	57/39/pc	57/39/pc
Orlando	80/65/pc	82/62/pc	Sydney	77/66/s	83/70/pc
Seattle	42/41/r	45/39/r	Tokyo	48/40/s	53/41/r

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.



That's one more doctor a non-celeb woman can't marry.

oncologist, popped the question to Ling, 33, alongside their families at a Chicago restaurant. Ling, who is also a correspondent for Oprah Winfrey's talk show, ended her engagement to entrepreneur Philip Levine in October 2005. (AP)



in poverty but left Haiti for the U.S. at age 9; later, Jean won fame with The Fugees and as a solo performer. (AP)

STAY OUT

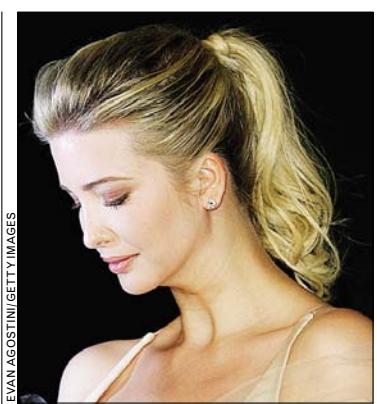
Celebrities Increasingly Raiding Our Dating Pool

LISA LING, National Geographic Channel correspondent and former co-host of "The View," got engaged to Paul Song, a Chicago-based doctor, over the holidays. Ling and Song plan to marry later this year in Los Angeles. The 41-year-old Song, an

HONORS

Haiti Selects National Figure

WYCLEF JEAN has been named a roving ambassador for Haiti, the foreign minister said Thursday. Jean, 34, will promote development and represent Haiti abroad. He grew up



"My bosom is magnificent," she thought.

LOOK out

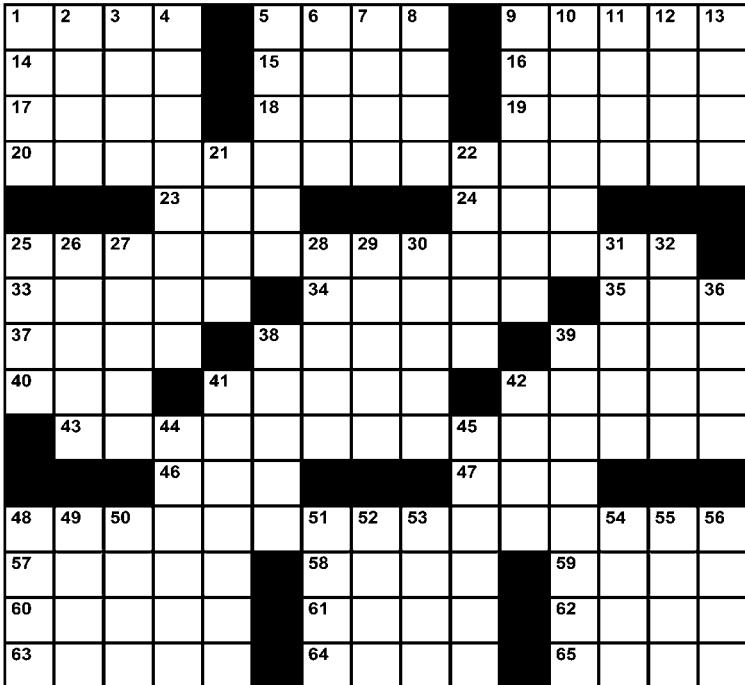
Let's Dance

ACROSS

1 St. Louis sight 57 Wipe the board, e.g.
 5 Equal exchange 58 British blueblood
 9 Guys, but not girls 59 Banquet
 14 Fish story, e.g. 60 Frogman, e.g.
 15 Christmas 61 Fictional ship of note
 candy 62 Run, but go nowhere
 16 Stave off 63 They deal in futures
 17 White House 64 Music to an ailurophile's ears
 office 65 Georg
 18 Comic Johnson Buchner's "Leonce and ___"
 19 Astronomical flare-ups
 20 1962 number-one song
 23 "Correct" suffix
 24 Palindromic constellation
 25 1950 Patti Page hit
 33 Unexpected problems
 34 Scottish groups
 35 Harley
 37 Poisonous snakes
 38 Dangerous, as a situation
 39 Chow down with class
 40 Herb with bitter leaves
 41 Steel tower
 42 Hymn of praise
 43 Springsteen song (with "The")
 46 Long geological time
 47 '80s sitcom featuring an alien
 48 Andrews Sisters classic

DOWN

1 Looking down from
 2 Excellent review
 3 Thunder unit
 4 Thanksgiving day units
 5 Spooks
 6 How many like
 7 Negative prefix
 8 Hammer part
 9 Commonly
 10 Repeated phrases
 11 Affirmation
 12 Cat burglar, e.g.
 13 Name on your behind, perhaps
 14 Like the ZIP code system
 15 Historical divisions
 16 Chromosome occupant
 17 Let it stand
 18 Holiday periods
 19 Yellow-brown
 20 Russian despot
 21 They investigate



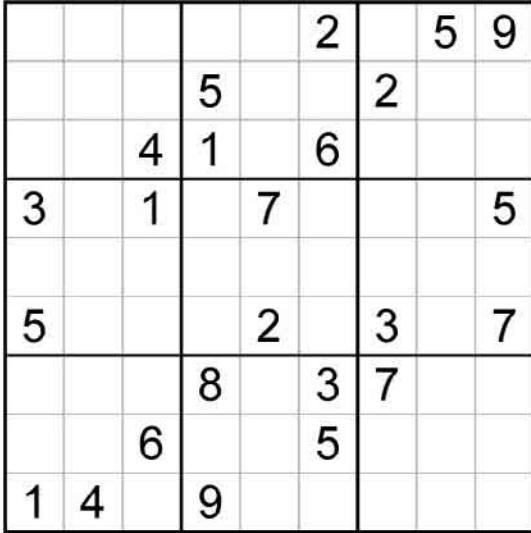
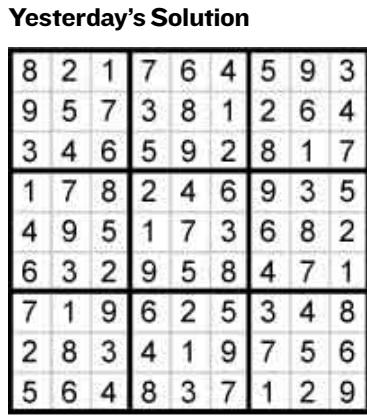
EDITED BY TIMOTHY PARKER

Sudoku

Degree of Difficulty: HARD

Fill in the boxes so each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

Need more Sudoku?
 Find another Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.



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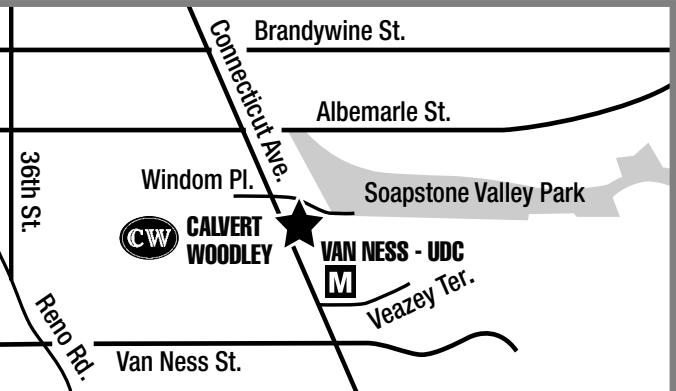
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→ Edie Sedgwick's bio-flick zips '60s style back into fashion | **E6**

Antiques go groovy thanks to hip shops and nesters | **E5**

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MICHELLE REPISO/EXPRESS

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face time

■ Until last fall, Padma Lakshmi was best known as a model, actress and the wife of celebrated novelist Salman Rushdie. But the Indian-born babe also knows her way around the kitchen, as evidenced by her cookbook, "Easy Exotic," and her gig as host of Bravo's pan slinger-versus-whisk wielder reality smackdown, "Top Chef." Lakshmi and the show return to Bravo next week (Weds. at 10 p.m.) with the final episodes of Season Two.

What's surprised you the most about working on "Top Chef"?

I had no idea the level of animosity that was brewing between the contestants. I didn't get to see it until the episodes came out, and it really surprised me.

Which of the challenges the "chef-testants" endured made you want to get cooking?

When they made ice cream, I would have loved to do that. I make lychee and clover sorbet and honeycomb and prune ice cream.

How do you work on "Top Chef" and stay so slim?

It's a combination of what I cook at home and how many hours I clock at the gym. It's no secret formula. But you'll see as the season progresses that I gain a little weight.

You've written one cookbook, and you're working on another due out

this year. How would you describe your culinary style?

At home, I try to do healthy things — leaner meats, brown rice and great salads. I like to make them interesting by going to the Union Square farmers market [in New York City] and getting local greens. I also add things like mint leaves and pumpkin seeds to them. I like to layer tastes.

What about when company is coming? What do you whip up then?

When I'm having a dinner party, I'm a little more luxurious. I'll use butter, and I love to cook slow braised meat, maybe something with Barolo wine. I'll soak a brisket in the fridge for two days with a bottle of red wine.

Are there any dishes your husband asks for?

He's an omnivore and eats anything and everything. I still don't



BRAVO

Padma Lakshmi

"TOP CHEF" HOST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, MODEL

know his favorite dish after seven years together, but he does like it when I make him fried okra. It's very hard to make Indian okra the right way.

What's your kitchen like at home?

Since I live in New York, it's probably not as big as people think. It's stuffed to the gills with gadgets. I like strange ones from other coun-

tries, like wire tools for frying I get in Chinatown. But I'm not a fan of big, space-consuming electronics like Kitchen-Aid mixers. I like to do things the old-fashioned way.

How is your apartment decorated?

We don't really have room for decoration, because we have a very big library. We have thousands

"My kitchen is stuffed with gadgets. I like strange ones from other countries."

and thousands of books and a lot of Indian art. That's it — books, art and shoes.

What are your favorite restaurants in New York?

Like most urban people, we eat anything. We love Balthazar and Pastis. And I'd also pick Nobu.

You dress so stylishly on "Top Chef." Are you concerned about wearing nonstick shoes or non-staining fabrics?

That's the genius of this gig. I have the number-one food-related show, and I get to wear my own clothes and not cook a darn thing!

Which designers and styles do you wear?

I'll wear everything from Old Navy to Chanel, often in the same outfit. I have shoes of my mother's from the 1970s and things from the flea market. I'm an equal-opportunity fashionista: I don't care if it cost \$2 or \$2,000. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)



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4 Class in The Glass

IF HOLIDAY BASHES packed your wine rack with an array of \$5.99 vintages you have no desire to uncork, try topping one of the bottles with the BevWizard (\$30, bevwizard.com). Magnets in the device alter the tannins, making young wines less bitter—you'll figure they were \$10 bottles, at least. But it can kill some of the flavor, so keep it away from anything fancy.



Float (or Carry) On

WHO KNEW SAILCLOTH, which helps propel windjamners, schooners and their ilk, could also make mighty cute bags? Eco-chic Vivaterra (vivaterra.com) hawks stenciled, Nantucket-cool totes (\$98-\$129) that withstand water and wind. They do not, however, cure seasickness.

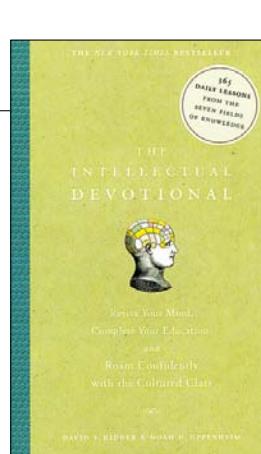


The Heel Whirl

LIVING IN Hong Kong a few years back, designers Lori Quan and Danilo Torro found their teeny apartment lacked clothing storage.

So they devised the Shoe Wheel (in black, silver and white, \$65, rakku.com), an ingenious rotating plastic contraption that harnesses Pumas, Manolos et al with bungee cords. It can take up to 30 pairs of shoes for a fun ride.

3



2 Bedside Degree

AWE YOUR COCKTAIL PARTY CRONIES with the page-long bits of wisdom in "The Intellectual Devotional" (\$22.50, Rodale). Like the spiritual volumes it's modeled on, there's a lesson for each day of the year, but these are grouped into the categories of history, literature, visual arts, science, music, philosophy and religion. In the course of a week, you'll bone up on the Irish potato famine, moral relativism and nuclear fission.



5

Spring Preening

WEST ELM, which seems much better at churning out hip decor than its chain-gang mates (yeah, we mean you, Pottery Barn), just released its spring collection. Fresh-as-a-Petworth-loft stuff ranges from faux antler lamps to brown-and-white print lounge chairs.

dear manolo

ANSWERS FROM THE SHOE BLOGGER

I have a wonderful black dress for an upcoming wedding in Manhattan, but I need shoes for dancing the night away. —SARAH

■ Manolo says, the Manolo has long thought that the winter weddings in the big city are among the most elegant of the ceremonies. During the summer, the brides feel the strong obligation to include the out of doors in the ceremony, and thus the guests are subjected to the wilting heat and the humidity and the barking dogs and the buzzing bees and the nasal ravages of the



floating pollens. This is to say nothing of the strong temptation felt by some peoples to wear the bright yellow, sleeveless summer dresses with the cheap plastic flip-flops. In the winter, however, the guests must be decorously covered, and the weather limits the nature-romping to the sidewalk between the cab and the door. It is the grown-up affair, with the elegant ladies and the distinguished gentlemen tripping the fantastic light in the banquet room. Here is the Angel by the Charles David (\$211, zappos.com) in pewter, the shoe that will enliven your look with the hint of metallic color.

@ Ask the Manolo a question at manolo@shoeblogs.com. Visit the Manolo at shoeblogs.com.

ON THE COVER

Courtney wears a Vanessa Barrantes mini-dress (\$395, Intermix, 3222 M St. NW; 202-298-8080) with earrings from South Moon Under (\$40, see southmoonunder.com) and a hat from Urban Outfitters (\$34). Scooter courtesy Vespa of Washington (\$5,799, 2233 Wisconsin Ave. NW; 202-333-8212). Photo by Michelle Repiso. Styling by Lauretta McCoy.

Styles | home

Treasures Online and Off-Line

Q I adore those stories in *Metropolitan Home* and *House & Garden* that show interiors filled with quirky antiques. The stuff is wilder than what I see in local stores, though. Do you have any ideas about where I can find unusual pieces, aka not that junk at flea markets?

Try the Web site 1stdibs.com, a go-to spot for designers, collectors and lovers of stuff fine and funky. The site operates like a virtual antique mall, bringing together wares from dealers in Paris, New York, Miami and other style destinations. Clear

decor
DIVA



photos, dimensions, age, dealer contact details and prices (or a note to e-mail the seller for info) make the site easy to navigate.

Furniture, lighting and accessories on 1stdibs include often-one-of-a-kind stuff, from Art Deco tables to Venetian glass sconces. A recent surf turned up a pimento-red, 1940s Spanish foosball table, 1920s fireplace andirons shaped like spooky owls and a lacquer French desk.



1STDIBS

GILTY PLEASURE: 18th-century French chairs are among the finds on 1stdibs.com.

If you find something you like, contact the dealer to work out payment and shipping. It's jet-set stuff, so know that prices tend to be high — from several hundred to several thousand dollars.

For unusual finds locally — much of it reasonably priced — head to Georgetown's upper Wisconsin Avenue, where a clutch of cool shops includes Darrell Dean (No. 1524), Cherry (No. 1526), Space (No. 1625) and Sixteen Fifty Nine (No. 1659). The stores traffic in everything from South American santos (statues of saints) and gilded French mirrors to 20th-century abstract etchings and 1970s, Studio 54-chic chrome lamps. Happy hunting.



Send home design dilemmas to Katie Z. Leavy, ASID, of Capital Design (capitaldesignDC.com) at decordiva@readexpress.com.

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X247



TIME-TRAVEL AGENTS: Dan and Anna Kahoe mix eclectic antiques in their Mt. Pleasant home and at their shop, Goodwood.

Victorian dresser with a steel Deco bed.

It helps that many older pieces — farm tables, Empire sofas — boast clean lines. "Some antiques, like a pie safe with tin doors, are so simple that they seem modern," said Goodwood's Anna Kahoe, 39, who mixes finds like an oversized metal stork statue and throne-like 19th-century chairs in the Mt. Pleasant house she shares with her husband.

When adding older items to any interior, buy something that speaks to you, whether it's a '40s circus poster or 19th-century porch columns to use as plant stands. Since antiques aren't defined by trends, "even if you change your mind or design philosophy, you'll still love that antique in a few years," said D.C. interior designer Stan Kelly, who uses pieces with pasts in all his jobs.

Keep in mind an object of desire's "mixability," too. "Think how it'll fit in your home. Look at style and scale," said Kim Hessler, owner of Logan Circle Asian antique den Dragonfly (1457 Church St. NW; 202-265-3359). That means "no" to

possession
obsession



THE POSSESSION: RODEO-STYLE DAGGER KAYAK

THE OWNER: JOHN COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE CHEF

Go With the Row

■ John Coleman, executive chef of the Lounge and Steak House at the Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, keeps his beloved kayak in the back of his Toyota Tundra pickup all summer and into the fall. Whenever he finds a few free moments, he heads for the Potomac, starting near the Old Angler's Inn and traveling toward Great Falls.

"I kayak for the fun of it, the exercise and the peace of mind," he said. His baby is a rodeo-style Dagger, purchased for just under a grand at Potomac Paddlers. The tight style allows for near-flips and 360-degree spins, he explained. (Think freestyle skiing, only in the water.)

While Coleman used to be more of a daredevil, frequenting ice-covered waters, he's "a lot more timid" now that he has three children. With good reason, since his own dad flipped over and lost all his teeth while tackling the water. Still, it's in his blood: Coleman's been boating since he was about 3 or 4 years old. He slept under canoes as a kid and has been known to use a boat as a sled in the snow or even as an umbrella in a downpour. STEPHANIE JONES



OLD STUFF, NEW IDEAS: At home, the Kahoes use a 19th-century Indian dowry chest, left, as a bar, and a 20th-century metal doctor's cabinet as a jewelry case.

A desire to add warmth, history or beauty to their spaces propels many newbie collectors to bring antique (100 years or older) and vintage (50 to 100 years old) pieces into Crate & Barrel strongholds. "People look for quirky things to keep their homes from looking like catalogs," said Dan Kahoe, 42, who owns antiques store Goodwood

(1428 U St. NW; 202-986-3640) with his wife, Anna.

While many folks may recall a great aunt's parlor of uncomfortable dark-wood sofas, the point now is not to recreate an era, but to blend pieces of the past into contemporary rooms or to assemble an eclectic look by mixing furnishings from diverse periods, say, a curvy

"People look for things to keep their homes from looking like catalogs."

a mammoth Swedish grandfather clock if you dwell in a tiny studio, but "maybe" to one of Hessler's multifunctional Chinese armoires.

If American antiques seem too Mount Vernon, worldly goods (Indian cabinets, African headrests) add dash and blend harmoniously with modern interiors. "Asian antiques have a chameleon quality," said restaurateur Mark Kuller, 54, who shows off a painted Tibetan chest and a 7-foot-tall Chinese pitchfork in his Bethesda home. The latter often inspires conversation, part of the appeal of antiques.

"People come to your place, and they want to learn something about you," said Anna Kahoe. Buy antiques, and guests will find out more than: "She shops at Restoration Hardware." JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

event horizon

Make an artist's book, a crafty volume to document, say, dreams, Jan. 6, 10 a.m., National Museum of Women in the Arts. \$20; 1250 New York Ave. NW; nmwa.org

Styles | fashion



GRAPHIC ART

Vanessa Barantes' silk mini-dress is Edie all over. (\$395, Intermix)

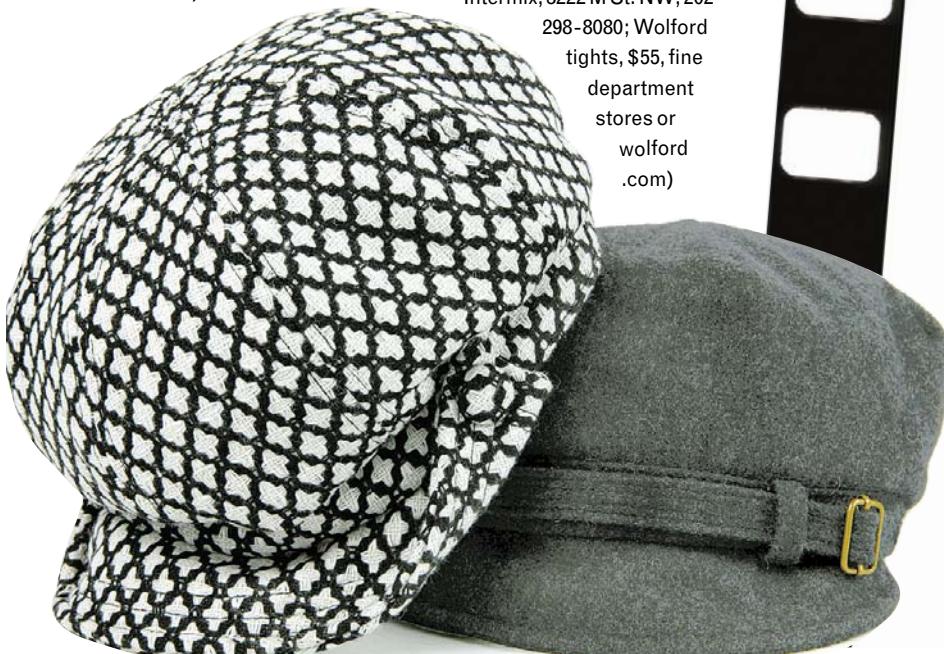


B&W CLASSIC

Breton stripes (derived from the flag of French province Brittany) were favored by both Edie and Andy —they'd often wear them out together. Ben Sherman updates the now-iconic look with his nautical "Bill" sweater. (\$79, The District Line, 2118 18th St. NW; 202-232-5558)

BRIM TEAM

Not ready to lose your locks for a shaggy '60s 'do? Just toss on a short-brimmed cap named for a masculine profession, be it newsboy, cadet, conductor or cabbie. (\$19-\$38, Urban Outfitters, 3111 M St. NW; 202-342-1012 or urbanoutfitters.com)



GET GO-GO-ING

Embrace your inner go-go dancer with Laura Poretsky's sleeveless geometric shift for her Abaeté label. And no homage to Edie would be complete without black tights and ankle-high pixie boots. (dress, \$265, boots, \$195, Intermix, 3222 M St. NW; 202-298-8080; Wolford tights, \$55, fine department stores or wolford.com)



Fac F

MOD FASHION BY ANDY WARHOL

As far as "it" girls go, one of the greats. When the actress/model intersected, she became an instant icon — from signature shag to her mod look, which has been duplicated in the release of "Factory Girl." Sienna Miller, 1960s mod in a red dress, of skirt and sleek of shag, is destined to swing into



Styles | entertaining



COME ON, RIDE THE TRAIN: To recreate this scene, rent out space at the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad Museum in Baltimore (borail.org). Exhibits stay open late for an extra fee.

Fun at the Phillips

And other ways you can enjoy a 'Night at the Museum'

Monkeying around exhibits during the wee hours sounds like a fantasy straight from the hit "Night at the Museum." But everyone can get some one-on-one time with sculptures, artifacts and animals if they're willing to pony up enough cash — and they probably won't have to deal with Attila the Hun or a rowdy tyrannosaurus skeleton.

Some of D.C.'s best party venues are the town's grand museums. The National Building Museum's Great Hall (nbm.org) has been hosting elegant bashes since Grover Cleveland's 1885 Inaugural Ball, and now it's available seven nights a week for affairs for up to 1,600. If you want to reserve The Phillips Collection (phillipscollection.org) in Dupont Circle for the night, it's yours for about \$20,000. They'll even throw in a docent for private tours.

But don't plan on a bar mitzvah next to Renoir's "Luncheon of the Boating Party." "We can't allow dancing or loud music near the art,"

explained Joseph Carpenter, the director of special events.

If you're craving tunes, simply cough up \$10 any Friday night for the Smithsonian Jazz Cafe (mnh.si.edu/jazz), located in the National Museum of Natural History. Unfortunately, the exhibits aren't accessible from the cafe space, which is also available for rent for private functions. But you can tap your toes there until 10 p.m. while partaking of a cash bar and dining options like prime rib and salmon with herb butter.

Kids will probably be more intrigued by the packages available at the International Spy Museum

MIMIC THE MOVIES ►► NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Sleeping With the Fishes

Even before Ben Stiller made evening jaunts inside museums all the rage, the International Spy Museum and the National Aquarium in Baltimore already had sell-out crowds for their overnight offers. So book soon to reserve a spot for you and your brood.

The next KidSpy Overnight: Operation Secret Slumber is slated for March 10-11; call 202-654-0930 to reserve a spot. The Aquarium has sleepovers scheduled in January and February, but, unfortunately, the events are already full. Call 410-576-3833 to get the scoop on when other events are coming up. They do a ton more over the summer, so you should be able to snag a spot for then. v.h.



Dressing up like a convincing spy requires a mustache and face paint.

(spymuseum.org). It can handle a run-of-the-mill boozy reception with catered grub from Zola for grown-ups, but it's even better suited for a scavenger hunt. There are three options (the excellent, super or ultimate), with the ultimate one (starting at \$6,000) allowing 150 people the run of the place until 11 p.m. Or, there's the Spy Birthday Party — \$4,000 to send up to 40 youngsters on an interactive adventure.

To more closely mimic the "Night at the Museum" experience, try the Spy Museum's "Operation Secret Slumber" at \$115 a ticket. Participants (one

adult is required for every two kids) file in at 7 p.m. for a night of briefings, a mission and snacks. Budding Bonds can pick any spot they want for their sleeping bags. "They can even sleep in the duct you crawl through," said the museum's Amanda Abrell. What about an overnight stay for a single family? "It could be done," she said. "I just don't know the price."

For hanging out with creatures that come alive at night — although they're living during the day, too — it's hard to beat the National Aquarium in Baltimore (aqua.org). The Inner Harbor landmark can handle galas for up to 3,000, and invites the public for overnight stays throughout the year. It's \$79 per person for crafts, exclusive tours and the chance to curl up in the underwater viewing area near the sharks, in the rainforest or amid the Australia exhibits.

"I would recommend air mattresses" in addition to sleeping bags, cautioned the aquarium's Molly Foyle. In the morning, there's the chance to peek in on exclusive early feedings, like the bugs being dumped into the rain forest environment as food.

That's certainly more exciting than anything you'll see in the movies. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)

mixed media



BOOKS
Hooters, Sans Girls

■ Secret No. 1: Your boyfriend is not going to Hooters for wings. Secret No. 2: **THE HOOTERS COOKBOOK** (\$20, Arnica), is actually pretty good. Granted, Lynn Austin's Lucky 7-Layer Salad, above, contains peas, lettuce and hard-boiled eggs, and suggests that Lynn (who was "the original Hooters girl") perhaps should have stayed in the dining room. But other recipes, including six different types of wings, down-home treats like burgers and onion rings, and puzzling-but-yummy additions like beef-and-pepperjack quiche (Hooters is famous for its quiche, you know), would help one easily put together a game-day spread to rival the white tank tops down the street.

KRISTEN PAGE-KIRBY (EXPRESS)

BOOKS
Food of the Gods



■ Meatloaf: Center of Sandwiches, Flavor of Home. If you thought it was limited to your mom's meat-ketchup-crushed Saltines version,

MEATLOAF by Maryana Vollstedt (\$15, Chronicle), will give you a new appreciation for the beefy medium. Recipes include fantasias like "Frosted Meatloaf," which has a crust of mashed potatoes, and Thai meatloaf, which incorporates lemongrass and cilantro. There are even recipes for sides such as oven fries or twice-baked potatoes, as well as veggie options, like the lentil-mushroom-walnut loaf, which we would eat only if all food in the world had disappeared and our cats were barricading themselves in the bathroom. K.P.K.

out there

SEEKING ANSWERS
ON THE TOWN

Q What's your New Year's resolution for 2007?

TAPATINIS | BARRACKS ROW | WEDS., JAN. 3

1. "To only eat fast food once a month, instead of once a week," Jennifer Roo. "General cleanliness, like housekeeping, daily maintenance," Matt White. **2.** "To use the new gym in my new building at my new job," Curtis Edwards. **3.** "To get over my ex," Jessica Povtak, left, with Rachel Ellis. **4.** "To go on at least one exotic trip this year," Malika Jackson, left. "Stop cussing as much," Allyson Little, center. "Lose weight, eat healthier," Kasondra Lewis. **5.** "To spend my 30th birthday in Paris," Vanessa Vaughn, left. "To let go — I obsess about things," Jackie Lawton. **6.** "To find an affordable apartment in D.C.," Donelle Booze, left. "To move to a 100 percent organic diet," Jillian Moise, center. "To open a savings account and actually use it," Jessica Young. **7.** "To stop being an a--hole to people," Jack Norton, with Wendy Bickford. **8.** "To continue yoga practice six days a week. It all flows from that," Heather Hamilton, left. "Maybe I'll drink more," Anya Lagasse. **9.** "To make more money," Kaleshia Thorpe, left. "To write more and work on buying a house," Emily Schuster. **10.** "Throw away my socks with holes in them," Didi Hamilton. **11.** "Thrive in my career this year," Michelle Thompson, left. "To discuss long-term care insurance for my parents," Marcie Wilson. VICKY HALLETT (EXPRESS)



↑ "General cleanliness, like housekeeping, daily maintenance."



↑ "To open a savings account and actually use it."



↑ "To continue yoga practice six days a week. It all flows from that."



↑ "Throw away my socks with holes in them."



B.I.O.

BY INVITATION ONLY: UPCOMING WEDDINGS & UNIONS



Bryant Collins, Carmen Rodriguez

Bryant, 29, is a D.C. police officer. Carmen, 26, is a global finance paralegal for Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft, LLP. They live in Silver Spring.

■ **The Main Event:** A semiformal ceremony on a North Carolina beach for 130 guests on July 28.

■ **Honeymoon:** Hawaii for two weeks.

■ **How They Met:** At Sportsfan Bar in Georgetown.

■ **First Date:** Dinner at Clyde's, then a movie. "He said I could pick it out," Carmen said. "I picked the girliest movie ever,

"Never Been Kissed." They ended the date at 6 the next morning.

■ **How He Proposed:** On a Sunday morning in bed. "I asked her if she would want to wake up with me every day for the rest of her life," said Bryant.

■ **Most Hated Clothing Item:** "Does she really need eight pairs of \$200 jeans?" Bryant asked.

■ **When She Knew:** "The first time he made me laugh until I cried," said Carmen.

■ **The Dress:** "A very simple but elegant dress from J. Crew," Carmen said.

■ **Mmm, Cake:** "Three layers," Bryant said. "One vanilla with chocolate mousse, one chocolate layer with white mousse and the top layer marble. It's really yummy."

■ **With an Unlimited Budget ...** They'd have another wedding in Guatemala, where Carmen is from.

"We just want everyone to have a great time," said Carmen.

needed someone to talk to."

■ **First Date:** Dinner at the Macaroni Grill in Herndon. "Akilah was an hour late," Travis is said.

■ **Their Song:** "Can't Let Go," by Anthony Hamilton. "When we first got together, man, people were skeptical of our love for each other because it happened so fast," Akilah said.

■ **How He Proposed:** At the Washington Monument after a gala at the U.S.



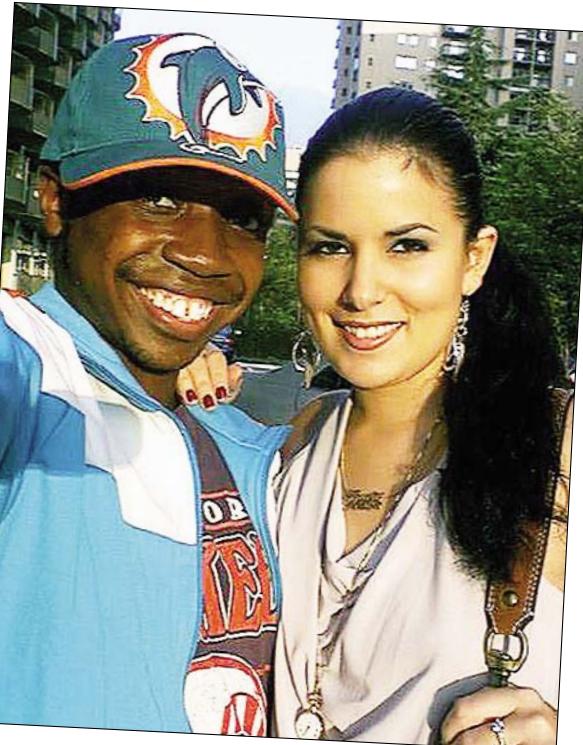
Travis Darden, Akilah White

Travis, 30, is a manager for DHL Dulles Operations. Akilah, 29, is a project manager for Clark Construction. They live in Oak Hill, Va.

■ **The Main Event:** A black-tie optional affair in Herndon on Aug. 25. "We are trying to get the guest list down to 200," Akilah said.

■ **How They Met:** At a party.

■ **First Impressions:** "Really cute and bored," Akilah said. "He looked like he



To-the-Letter Love

When word geeks fight, things get ugly. **CHENEL JOSAPHAT** and **LUCIA SOTO** were locked in a Literati battle on Yahoo! Games, when Chenel logged out. Describing the couple's most ridiculous fight, Chenel said, "She thought I had purposely resigned from a game she was winning to rob her of officially beating me after I beat her a couple of times." "That wasn't stupid," said Lucia. "It was true." "It was stupid because she almost broke up with me over it," said Chenel. They eventually made up, and will be vocabulary-battling for the rest of their lives.

The couple, who met when a high school seating chart threw them together, will have a 15-person ceremony on a Miami beach Jan. 27. "I always envisioned about 1,000 people at my wedding," said Chenel. "But Lucia won me over with her only-family vision."

Chenel, 22, is a multimedia specialist at Georgetown's Gelardin New Media Center. Lucia, 22, is a receptionist working in Springfield. They live in Arlington.

les' tendon. Travis was at my side every single day. He works in Chantilly, but would drive me to D.C. to work."

■ **The Dress:** "Whatever it is, I know I will be the happiest man alive," Travis is said.

■ **Making It Unique:** "We have a lot of friends who are talented both playing instruments and singing. We will have a saxophonist and four soloists, and two of the bridesmaids will be singing."

■ **Wedding Jitters:** "Akilah has a lot of friends and family that will probably just think this event is a free-for-all," Travis said. "It's not."



Emily Hearn, Nathaniel Sacks

Emily, 28, is the associate executive director for USEF. Nate, 30, is an attorney. They live in Silver Spring.

■ **The Main Event:** A Jewish-Christian interfaith ceremony on a horse farm in Kentucky on May 20. They expect 150 to 200 guests.

■ **How They Met:** After watching a University of Kentucky basketball game with friends, Emily and her friend stopped by the Glover Park Blockbuster to rent a movie. "I walked past Nate and noticed his UK ball cap and cheered, 'Go Cats!' I asked if he had watched the game that day; he said he was in the middle of law school finals and didn't know they were playing." After some small talk, Nate asked for her e-mail address.

"After I met her friends and family, I knew she came from great stock," Nate said.

■ **First Impressions:** "I was completely floored; she was so gorgeous," Nate said.

■ **How He Proposed:** While camping on Assateague Island. "I thought he was digging in his pocket for Chapstick and he pulled out a ring," Emily said.

■ **Stupidest Fight:** "We were on a road trip, and I wouldn't stop to get him food," Emily said. "I stop only for gas and the bathroom, and we didn't need either of those. However, I eventually stopped." "After I nearly passed out from low blood sugar," Nate said.



Getting Married? If you'd like to see your wedding or commitment ceremony in B.I.O., send your favorite informal photograph (wacky is fine, but please don't send a formal engagement shot), plus your names and ceremony date to weddings@readexpress.com. Please contact us at least one month before your wedding. We'll get back to you with some questions as your big day approaches.



SU DO KU

DIFFICULTY LEVEL: WELTERWEIGHT

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Last Week's Solution

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How to Play

The rules of Samurai Sudoku are the same as in the popular Sudoku puzzles that appear in Express and The Washington Post.

As with standard Sudoku, the Samurai version requires no math, just logic, reasoning ... and an iron will. The goal is to fill in each column, row and 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9 without repeating any. The twist in Samurai Sudoku is that the digits that appear in the overlapping boxes must work for both puzzles.

A piece of advice to get you started: Don't focus on completing one grid at a time. Keep the whole puzzle in mind as you go, because filling in a number in one grid could give you clues to another. As always, there's only one solution, which will appear in next week's edition of Weekend Styles.

Can't get enough Sudoku? Find a standard Sudoku puzzle in the Comics section of the Post every Sunday and in the Style section every Monday through Saturday.

Weddings Wanted*



* Here's our holiday gift to you:

Due to the winter wedding slow-down, you won't have to wait weeks or months to be featured in B.I.O. if you submit now. Don't worry if your nuptials are months away — that's not a problem. Just send an e-mail to weddings@readexpress.com. We only run announcements before the event, though.

express

Be Express'

Next Top Model



Think you've got what it takes

to grace the cover of Weekend Styles? Send your name and a recent picture to photo@readexpress.com. Beauty of every kind and both genders is welcome. But if you have a modeling agent, you can't play. And you have to be over 18.

express

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Rockville Open Sun 12-4 \$445,900
Blocks to Metro. Expanded Rambler, 2 car gar. 3BR, 2BA, lots of updates, treed lot. Frm 1st & Veirs Mill, contin on 1st, R Grandin to #935.
Kathe King 703.966.7573
Vienna Office 703.938.6070



Silver Spring Open Jan 13 (1-5) \$649,000
Gorgeous Col, 4BR, 3.5BA, fin bsmt, 2 car gar, new carpet, paint & refinished hdwds. 2-tier deck & huge back yd. Rec & exercise rms 1609 Featherwood St.
Linda Lynch 240.355.7396
Aspen Hill/LWP Ofc. 301.681.0550



Silver Spring Open Jan 14 (12-4) \$950,000
Spac. custom Cape Cod on 1+ ac. 5BR, 4 FBA, in-law ste & 3 car gar. 495 to 650 N. (NH Ave.), L Quaint Acres, R to 509.
Isabel Bailey 301.580.8594
Gateway/SS Ofc. 301.681.0540



Alexandria Open Sun 1-4 \$1,190,000
Huge new addition. Great lot in Beverly Hills! 3-4BR, 3FBA, gourn kit, hdwds, lux MBR, fin LL. 707 Grand View Dr.
Susan Canis 703.759.6300



Alex S. Open Sun 12-4 \$290,000
New price for this nifty condo. Open kitchen w/breakfast bar, sunroom. Newly painted, move-in ready. Handicap accessible. 2BR, 2BA.
Heidi Kabler 703.850.2558



Herndon Open Sat 11-3 \$499,900
Convenient to shopping, bus & comm. rtes. On cul-de-sac. Updated kit, FR w/FP, 4BR, 2.5BA, full bsmt! Toll Rd to Herndon Exit 10, R on Eilden, L Herndon Pkwy, L Summerfield, L April Way, R Gentle Breeze Ct to 701.
Linda Sonnhalter 703.209.2600



Leesburg Open Sun 12-4 \$420,000
3BR, 3.5 BA TH, fin bsmt w/2 car gar, fenced backyard, 2178 fin sf, 9' ceilings, clubhouse & pool amenities! Rt. 7W u/w Leesburg, R River Creek Pkwy, L Potomac Station, R Valemont, R Kendra, L Revelstore Terrace to 835.
Steve Bochan 703.444.4700



Oakton Open Sun 1-4 \$304,900
REDUCED \$15,000
Updated/upgraded 2BR condo. Close to Metro, Rt 66, Rt 123 & bus. 1000sf. Hdwd Pergo flrs, FP. Priv fired patio w/garden. Great value!
Kathe King 703.966.7573



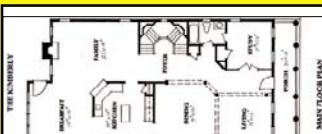
Vienna Open Sun 1-4 \$669,000
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Virginia Walker 202.744.9987



Fort Washington Open Sun 1-4 \$1,900,000
Close to DC. Hardwoods through-out, theater room, sauna, & lots more!
Matinee Lawhasawadi 301.252.8799
Potomac Village Ofc. 301.718.4080



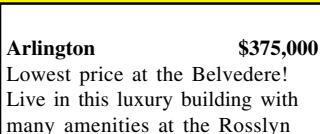
Kensington Open Sun 1-4 \$800,000s
2 new homes available with all the bells and whistles! 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garages.
Paula Nerret 301.346.0098
Burtonsville/Tri-Co Ofc. 301.681.0444x114



Silver Spring Open Sun 1-4 \$900,000s
4 luxury homes avail on 1/2 ac. Close-in. Over 4,300 sf finished & 3 car garages.
Paula Nerret 301.346.0098
Burtonsville/Tri-Co Ofc. 301.681.0444x114



Alexandria Open Sun 1-4 \$224,900
Owner says SELL!
Terrific updates in 1BR garden Condo. New appls & flooring, fresh paint, sunny full-length windows. Call to see today!
Kathe King 703.966.7573



Arlington Open Sun 1-4 \$375,000
Lowest price at the Belvedere! Live in this luxury building with many amenities at the Rosslyn Metro. 1BR, 1BA, sep LR & DR, balcony. New carpet. For tour or information, call!
Claudette 703.309.4663
McLean DM Ofc. 703.760.8880



Chantilly Open Sun 1-4 \$1,700,000
3.25 ac lot w/existing home w/possible future zoning for 9 individual building lots. Close to Rt50 & Pleasant Valley Rd.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807



Fairfax Open Sun 1-4 \$265,000
Lovely 2 lvl, 2BR, 1.5BA, hdwd foyer/kit, freshly painted through-out. Close to Fair Oaks Mall, I-66, Fairfax City & Vienna Metro.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807



Lorton Open Sun 1-4 \$2,800/mo. Rental
Never lived in! Brand new SFH w/fully fin bsmt & FBA. Nice den can be used as BR. Kit w/upgraded appls. Close to I-95 & Rt 1 & mins from Potomac Mills Mall.
PJ Sikand 703.244.3807



Potomac Falls Open Sun 1-4 \$624,000
Enormous 4BR, 3.5BA, 2 car garage SFH in Lowes Island. Former model home. New carpet & paint. Fully fenced yard.
Helen Flynn 703.328.7187
www.helenflynnells.com

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